

By: Minjarez

H.B. No. 53

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the transitional living services program for certain
3 youth in foster care.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Sections 264.121(a-2) and (f), Family Code, are
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a-2) The experiential life-skills training under
8 Subsection (a-1) must include:

9 (1) a financial literacy education program that:

10 (A) [~~(1)~~] includes instruction on:

11 (i) [~~(A)~~] obtaining and interpreting a
12 credit score;

13 (ii) [~~(B)~~] protecting, repairing, and
14 improving a credit score;

15 (iii) [~~(C)~~] avoiding predatory lending
16 practices;

17 (iv) [~~(D)~~] saving money and accomplishing
18 financial goals through prudent financial management practices;

19 (v) [~~(E)~~] using basic banking and
20 accounting skills, including balancing a checkbook;

21 (vi) [~~(F)~~] using debit and credit cards
22 responsibly;

23 (vii) [~~(G)~~] understanding a paycheck and
24 items withheld from a paycheck; [~~and~~]

1 (viii) understanding the time requirements
2 and process for filing federal taxes;

3 (ix) [~~H~~] protecting financial, credit,
4 and personally identifying information in personal and
5 professional relationships and online; and

6 (x) for youth who are age 17 years of age or
7 older, applying for and obtaining automobile insurance and
8 residential property insurance, including tenants insurance; and

9 (B) [~~2~~] assists a youth who has a source of
10 income to establish a savings plan and, if available, a savings
11 account that the youth can independently manage; and

12 (2) for youth who are age 17 years of age or older,
13 lessons related to civic engagement, including the process for
14 registering to vote, the places to vote, and resources for
15 information regarding upcoming elections.

16 (f) The department shall require a person with whom the
17 department contracts for transitional living services for foster
18 youth to provide or assist youth in obtaining:

19 (1) housing services;

20 (2) job training and employment services;

21 (3) college preparation services;

22 (4) services that will assist youth in obtaining a
23 general education development certificate;

24 (5) services that will assist youth in developing
25 skills in food preparation;

26 (6) nutrition education that promotes healthy food
27 choices;

- 1 (7) a savings or checking account if the youth is at
- 2 least 18 years of age and has a source of income;
- 3 (8) mental health services;
- 4 (9) financial literacy education and civic engagement
- 5 lessons required under Subsection (a-2); and
- 6 (10) [~~(8)~~] any other appropriate transitional living
- 7 service identified by the department.

8 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to

9 a person who enters into a contract with the Department of Family

10 and Protective Services to provide transitional living services for

11 foster youth on or after the effective date of this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.