

By: Hernandez

H.B. No. 1626

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an emergency services coordinator for the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 40, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 40.0327 to read as follows:

Sec. 40.0327. EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR. (a) The department shall designate a department employee as the emergency services coordinator to:

(1) manage the department's efforts to prepare for and react to any natural disaster or emergency situation; and

(2) serve as a liaison between the department and other state agencies and nonprofit agencies that provide assistance to families receiving services from the department.

(b) The department's emergency services coordinator shall:

(1) coordinate emergency preparedness efforts to ensure individuals served by department programs are informed about locations where services will be provided during a natural disaster or emergency situation;

(2) ensure all foster and adoptive families are informed about a potential natural disaster or emergency situation and the emergency procedures they should follow;

(3) coordinate with other state agencies and other persons to ensure that children in the conservatorship of the

1 department have access to health care services during a natural
2 disaster or emergency situation;

3 (4) develop partnerships with local law enforcement
4 agencies to ensure that intakes, investigations, and removals
5 continue during a natural disaster or emergency situation; and

6 (5) monitor evacuations of facilities and homes that
7 house children in the conservatorship of the department and
8 maintain contact with those facilities and homes throughout a
9 natural disaster or emergency situation to ensure the safety and
10 well-being of the children.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.