

AN ACT

relating to the powers and duties of the office of independent  
ombudsman for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

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

SECTION 1. Section 261.001, Human Resources Code, is  
amended by amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivision (1-a) to  
read as follows:

(1) "Child" means an individual who is:

(A) 10 years of age or older and younger than 19  
years of age; and

(B) committed to or placed in a facility  
described by Section 261.101(f) by an order issued by a juvenile  
court.

(1-a) "Independent ombudsman" means the individual  
who has been appointed under this chapter to the office of  
independent ombudsman.

SECTION 2. Section 261.101, Human Resources Code, is  
amended by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,  
the powers of the office include:

(1) the inspection of:

(A) a facility operated by the department under  
Subtitle C;

(B) a post-adjudication secure correctional

1 facility under Section 51.125, Family Code;

2 (C) a nonsecure correctional facility under  
3 Section 51.126, Family Code; and

4 (D) any other residential facility in which a  
5 child adjudicated as having engaged in conduct indicating a need  
6 for supervision or delinquent conduct is placed by court order; and

7 (2) the investigation of complaints alleging a  
8 violation of the rights of the children committed to or placed in a  
9 facility described by this subsection.

10 SECTION 3. The following provisions of the Human Resources  
11 Code are repealed:

12 (1) Section 261.101(e), as added by Section 11(b),  
13 Chapter 854 (S.B. 1149), Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular  
14 Session, 2015; and

15 (2) Section 261.101(e), as amended by Chapter 962  
16 (S.B. 1630), Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3648 was passed by the House on May 3, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3648 on May 23, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 2, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3648 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor