

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 1544

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to administrative review of investigations of reports of
3 child abuse or neglect.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section [261.309](#), Family Code, is amended by
6 adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

7 (c-1) Not later than the 15th day after the date the
8 department completes the investigation, the investigator, an
9 employee of the department providing family-based safety services,
10 or, if neither the investigator nor an employee providing
11 family-based safety services is available, any employee of the
12 department shall attempt to provide oral, in-person notice to the
13 person who is alleged to have abused or neglected a child that the
14 person has a right to request an administrative review under
15 Subsection (c). The department shall document the notice or
16 attempted notice in the investigation report described by Section
17 [261.308](#).

18 SECTION 2. The Department of Family and Protective Services
19 shall adopt rules necessary to implement Section [261.309\(c-1\)](#),
20 Family Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after the
21 effective date of this Act.

22 SECTION 3. Section [261.309\(c-1\)](#), Family Code, as added by
23 this Act, applies only to an investigation completed on or after the
24 effective date of this Act. An investigation completed before the

1 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
2 date the investigation was completed, and the former law is
3 continued in effect for that purpose.

4 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.