

By: González of El Paso

H.B. No. 702

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to minimum education requirements for child protective
3 services caseworkers.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 40, Human Resources Code,
6 is amended by adding Section 40.0324 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 40.0324. MINIMUM CASEWORKER EDUCATION REQUIREMENT.

8 The department may not hire a person to be a child protective
9 services caseworker unless the person holds a bachelor's degree.

10 The department shall give preference to an applicant for a child
11 protective services caseworker position if the applicant holds a
12 bachelor's degree or an advanced degree in social work conferred by
13 a college or university accredited by an accrediting organization
14 recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

15 SECTION 2. Section 40.0324, Human Resources Code, as added
16 by this Act, applies only to a child protective services caseworker
17 hired by the Department of Family and Protective Services on or
18 after the effective date of this Act. A caseworker hired before the
19 effective date of this Act is not required to hold a bachelor's
20 degree as required by Section 40.0324, Human Resources Code, as
21 added by this Act, as long as the person remains employed by the
22 Department of Family and Protective Services as a caseworker.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.