

By: Swanson

H.B. No. 4544

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing children committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department with state-issued identification on discharge or release.

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

SECTION 1. Section 245.0535(e), Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) The department may contract and coordinate with private vendors, units of local government, or other entities to implement the comprehensive reentry and reintegration plan developed under this section, including contracting to:

(1) coordinate the supervision and services provided to children during the time children are in the custody of the department with any supervision or services provided children who have been released under supervision or finally discharged from the department;

(2) provide children awaiting release under supervision or final discharge with documents that are necessary after release or discharge, including identification papers that include, if available, personal identification certificates obtained under Section 245.0536, medical prescriptions, job training certificates, and referrals to services; and

(3) provide housing and structured programs, including programs for recovering substance abusers, through which

1 children are provided services immediately following release under
2 supervision or final discharge.

3 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 245, Human Resources Code,
4 is amended by adding Section 245.0536 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 245.0536. PROVIDING RELEASED OR DISCHARGED CHILD WITH
6 STATE-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION. (a) Before releasing a child under
7 supervision or finally discharging a child, the department shall:

8 (1) determine whether the child has:

9 (A) a valid license issued under Chapter 521,
10 Transportation Code; or

11 (B) a valid personal identification certificate
12 issued under Chapter 521, Transportation Code; and

13 (2) if the child does not have a valid license or
14 certificate described by Subdivision (1), submit to the Department
15 of Public Safety on behalf of the child a request for the issuance
16 of a personal identification certificate under Chapter 521,
17 Transportation Code.

18 (b) The department shall submit a request under Subsection
19 (a)(2) as soon as is practicable to enable the department to receive
20 the personal identification certificate before the department
21 releases or discharges the child and to provide the child with the
22 personal identification certificate when the department releases
23 or discharges the child.

24 (c) The department, the Department of Public Safety, and the
25 vital statistics unit of the Department of State Health Services
26 shall adopt a memorandum of understanding that establishes their
27 respective responsibilities with respect to the issuance of a

1 personal identification certificate to a child, including
2 responsibilities related to verification of the child's identity.
3 The memorandum of understanding must require the Department of
4 State Health Services to electronically verify the birth record of
5 a child whose name and any other personal information is provided by
6 the department and to electronically report the recorded filing
7 information to the Department of Public Safety to validate the
8 identity of a child under this section.

9 (d) The department shall reimburse the Department of Public
10 Safety or the Department of State Health Services for the actual
11 costs incurred by those agencies in performing responsibilities
12 established under this section. The department may charge the
13 child's parent or guardian for the actual costs incurred under this
14 section or the fees required by Section 521.421, Transportation
15 Code.

16 (e) This section does not apply to a child who:
17 (1) is not legally present in the United States; or
18 (2) was not a resident of this state before the child
19 was placed in the custody of the department.

20 SECTION 3. Section 521.421(a-1), Transportation Code, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (a-1) The fee for a personal identification certificate
23 issued under Section 501.0165, Government Code, ~~[or]~~ Section
24 841.153, Health and Safety Code, or Section 245.0536, Human
25 Resources Code, is \$5.

26 SECTION 4. Section 245.0536, Human Resources Code, as added
27 by this Act, applies only to the release under supervision or final

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1 discharge of a child that occurs on or after December 1, 2021. A
2 release under supervision or final discharge that occurs before
3 that date is governed by the law in effect immediately before the
4 effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in
5 effect for that purpose.

6 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.