

AN ACT

relating to providing children committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department with certain documents on discharge or release; authorizing a fee.

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

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

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 245, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Sections 245.0536 and 245.0537 to read as follows:

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

(1) determine whether the child has:

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

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

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

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

(c) The department, the Department of Public Safety, and the vital statistics unit of the Department of State Health Services shall adopt a memorandum of understanding that establishes their

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

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

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

21 Sec. 245.0537. PROVIDING RELEASED OR DISCHARGED CHILD WITH  
22 BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND SOCIAL SECURITY CARD. (a) In addition to  
23 complying with the requirements of Section 245.0536, before  
24 releasing a child under supervision or finally discharging a child,  
25 the department must:

26 (1) determine whether the child has a:  
27 (A) certified copy of the child's birth

1 certificate; and

2 (B) copy of the child's social security card; and

3 (2) if the child does not have a document described by  
4 Subdivision (1), submit to the appropriate entity on behalf of the  
5 child a request for the issuance of the applicable document.

6 (b) The department shall submit a request under Subsection  
7 (a)(2) as soon as is practicable to enable the department to receive  
8 the applicable document before the department releases or  
9 discharges the child and to provide the child with the applicable  
10 document when the department releases or discharges the child.

11 (c) This section does not apply to a child who:

12 (1) is not legally present in the United States; or

13 (2) was not a resident of this state before the child  
14 was placed in the custody of the department.

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

17 (a-1) The fee for a personal identification certificate  
18 issued under Section 501.0165, Government Code, ~~[or]~~ Section  
19 841.153, Health and Safety Code, or Section 245.0536, Human  
20 Resources Code, is \$5.

21 SECTION 4. Sections 245.0536 and 245.0537, Human Resources  
22 Code, as added by this Act, apply only to the release under  
23 supervision or final discharge of a child that occurs on or after  
24 December 1, 2021. A release under supervision or final discharge  
25 that occurs before that date is governed by the law in effect  
26 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former  
27 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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

H.B. No. 4544

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 4544 was passed by the House on April 30, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 4544 on May 28, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 4544 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

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

Date

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Governor