

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 1156

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the contracting authority of the Health and Human  
3 Services Commission for the volunteer advocate for children  
4 program.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 264.603(a), Family Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (a) The commission shall contract with one statewide  
9 organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under  
10 Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as an organization  
11 described by Section 501(c)(3) of that code [~~and designated as a~~  
12 ~~supporting organization under Section 509(a)(3) of that code,~~] and  
13 that is composed of individuals or groups of individuals who have  
14 expertise in the dynamics of child abuse and neglect and experience  
15 in operating volunteer advocate programs to provide training,  
16 technical assistance, and evaluation services for the benefit of  
17 local volunteer advocate programs. The contract shall:

18 (1) include measurable goals and objectives relating  
19 to the number of:

20 (A) volunteer advocates in the program; and  
21 (B) children receiving services from the  
22 program; and

23 (2) follow practices designed to ensure compliance  
24 with standards referenced in the contract.

1           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2 a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each house, as  
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.