

By: Miles

S.B. No. 1628

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the authority of the division of the ombudsman for
3 children and youth in foster care.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 531.9931, Government Code, as added by
6 Chapter 906 (S.B. 213), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular
7 Session, 2017, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 531.9931. DIVISION OF OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
9 IN FOSTER CARE. (a) The division of the ombudsman for children and
10 youth in foster care is created within the office of the ombudsman
11 for the purpose of:

12 (1) receiving complaints from children and youth in
13 the conservatorship of the department as provided under Section
14 531.993(a)(1);

15 (2) receiving complaints from a person providing
16 foster care services for children and youth, including
17 child-placing agencies, agency foster homes, specialized
18 child-care homes, general residential operations, cottage home
19 operations, and continuum-of-care residential operations;

20 (3) [~~2~~] informing children and youth in the
21 conservatorship of the department who file a complaint under this
22 subchapter about the result of the ombudsman's investigation of the
23 complaint, including whether the ombudsman was able to substantiate
24 the child's or youth's complaint; and

1 (4) [~~(3)~~] collaborating with the department to
2 develop an outreach plan for children and youth in the
3 conservatorship of the department to promote awareness of the
4 ombudsman.

5 (b) If a child or youth in the conservatorship of the
6 department contacts the ombudsman by telephone call to report a
7 complaint under this subchapter, the call shall be transferred
8 directly to a person employed by the division of the ombudsman
9 created under this section.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.