

By: Campbell

S.B. No. 2158

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to authorizing the Texas Education Agency to provide  
3 identification kits for certain children.

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

5 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the Texas  
6 Child Identification Act of 2021.

7 SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds  
8 that:

9 (1) the proactive collection and central storage of  
10 comprehensive identification information about individual children  
11 by local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies is resource  
12 intensive; and

13 (2) the National Child Identification Program, known  
14 as "Safety Blitz":

15 (A) is a national community service initiative  
16 that has partnered with the states and their attorneys general,  
17 local law enforcement agencies, nonprofit organizations, and  
18 community organizations to provide families with an inkless,  
19 in-home fingerprint and DNA identification kit, which can be turned  
20 over to law enforcement by the parent or guardian of a child to  
21 provide information on a missing or trafficked child; and

22 (B) promotes the proactive collection and  
23 storage of comprehensive identification information within the  
24 home, decentralizing the process for law enforcement agencies that

1 may lack the resources to collect and centrally store vital  
2 identification information related to individual children.

3 SECTION 3. AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE IDENTIFICATION KITS.  
4 Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is amended by adding  
5 Section 38.028 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 38.028. CHILD IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM. (a) In this  
7 section, "elementary school" has the meaning assigned by Section  
8 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
9 U.S.C. Section 1401(6)).

10 (b) To promote the proactive collection and storage of  
11 comprehensive identification information by parents and guardians,  
12 the agency shall provide inkless, in-home fingerprint and DNA  
13 identification kits to any parent or guardian who requests one and  
14 whose child attends kindergarten or elementary school. A kit may be  
15 submitted by the parent or guardian to federal, state, tribal, or  
16 local law enforcement in an effort to locate and return missing or  
17 trafficked children.

18 SECTION 4. CONTINGENT UPON APPROPRIATION. The Texas  
19 Education Agency is required to implement Section 38.028, Education  
20 Code, as added by this Act, only if the legislature appropriates  
21 money specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not  
22 appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the agency may,  
23 but is not required to, implement that section using other  
24 appropriations available for that purpose.

25 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September  
26 1, 2021.