88R14638 BDP-F

By:  Garcia H.B. No. 5044

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to communicating the foster children's bill of rights to a child and a process for reporting violations to the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

SECTION 1.  Sections 263.008(c) and (g), Family Code, are amended to read as follows:

(c)  The department shall provide a written copy of the foster children's bill of rights to each child placed in foster care in the child's primary language, if possible, and shall inform the child of the rights described by the foster children's bill of rights:

(1)  orally in the child's primary language, if possible, and in simple, nontechnical terms that are developmentally appropriate and can reasonably be expected to result in successful communication with the child based on the child's age and development; [~~or~~]

(2)  in writing in a manner that is developmentally appropriate and utilizes language in a manner that can reasonably be expected to result in successful communication with the child based on the child's age and development; or

(3)  for a child who has a disability, including an impairment of vision or hearing, through any means that can reasonably be expected to result in successful communication with the child.

(g)  The department shall develop and implement a policy for receiving and handling reports that the rights of a child in foster care are not being observed. The department shall inform a child in foster care and, if appropriate, the child's parent, managing conservator, or guardian of the method for filing a report with the department under this subsection. Information provided to a child under this subsection must be communicated orally and in writing in a manner that is developmentally appropriate for each child and can reasonably be expected to result in successful communication with the child based on the child's age and development.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.