

By: Bailes

H.B. No. 637

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the payment of permanency care assistance after a child's 18th birthday.

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

SECTION 1. Section 264.852, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) A permanency care assistance agreement shall provide for permanency care assistance payments until the last day of the month of the child's 18th birthday. The department may continue to provide permanency care assistance payments after the month in which the child attains the age of 18 as long as the child is regularly attending high school or enrolled in a program leading toward a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate.

SECTION 2. The heading to Section 264.855, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 264.855. CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY FOR PERMANENCY CARE ASSISTANCE BENEFITS UNTIL ~~AFTER~~ AGE 21 ~~18~~.

SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies to a permanency care assistance agreement entered into on or after the effective date of this Act. A permanency care assistance agreement entered into before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the agreement was entered into, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.