

By: Plesa

H.B. No. 2610

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to trauma-informed care for children in the  
3 conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services  
4 and trauma-informed care training for certain department  
5 employees.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 264.015, Family Code, is amended by  
8 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-1), (a-2), (a-3),  
9 (a-4), (a-5), and (d) to read as follows:

10 (a) The department shall require ~~[include training in~~  
11 ~~trauma-informed programs and services in any training the~~  
12 ~~department provides to]~~ foster parents, adoptive parents, kinship  
13 caregivers, department caseworkers, ~~and~~ department supervisors,  
14 and personnel at agencies that provide services to children in the  
15 department's conservatorship to receive training regarding the  
16 impact of trauma on children and the use of a trauma-informed  
17 approach for interacting with a child or making decisions that  
18 affect a child. The training may include faith-based programs that  
19 meet the criteria described by this subsection and must:

20 (1) be comprehensive and use relevant  
21 research-supported or evidence-based content;

22 (2) train individuals to:

23 (A) understand the components of trauma; and

24 (B) apply the principles of a trauma-informed

1 approach to the individual's interactions with or decision-making  
2 regarding a child;

3 (3) address:

4 (A) the symptoms of trauma, including trauma  
5 triggers;

6 (B) the effect of trauma on a child's brain  
7 development, overall ability to function, and behavior;

8 (C) the ability of trauma-informed strategies to  
9 support the success of children who have experienced trauma;

10 (D) attachment and how a lack of attachment may  
11 affect a child; and

12 (E) the risks and benefits associated with the  
13 use of psychotropic medication;

14 (4) include current research that addresses methods  
15 for assisting a child to heal from childhood trauma, including  
16 current trauma-informed treatments and services; and

17 (5) include methods for the practical application of  
18 the training to the specific role the individual being trained has  
19 in the child's life.

20 (a-1) The department shall seek and use [pay for the  
21 training provided under this subsection with] gifts, donations, and  
22 grants and any available state or federal money, including money  
23 available through the Fostering Connections to Success and  
24 Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Pub. L. No. 110-351) and the  
25 Family First Prevention Services Act (Title VII, Div. E, Pub. L.  
26 No. 115-123), to pay for the training required by Subsection (a).

27 (a-2) The department shall develop a plan to implement the

1 training required by Subsection (a) that includes specific,  
2 measurable goals. The department shall annually report to the  
3 legislature regarding the department's [~~evaluate the effectiveness~~  
4 ~~of the training provided under this subsection to ensure~~] progress  
5 toward a trauma-informed system of care.

6 (a-3) The training requirements of this section do not  
7 require the use of any specific training model or program. The  
8 department may exempt from the training required by Subsection (a)  
9 an individual who submits proof to the department that the  
10 individual has received training that meets the requirements of  
11 Subsection (a).

12 (a-4) In areas of the state where a single source continuum  
13 contractor provides foster care or case management services, the  
14 department shall ensure that the single source continuum contractor  
15 carries out the training required by Subsection (a).

16 (a-5) The department shall provide to department employees  
17 required to complete the training under Subsection (a) access to  
18 ongoing training to ensure continuous progress toward a  
19 trauma-informed system of care.

20 (d) In this section, "trauma" and "trauma-informed" have  
21 the meanings described by 40 T.A.C. Section 702.701.

22 SECTION 2. Section 264.015(b), Family Code, is repealed.

23 SECTION 3. The Department of Family and Protective Services  
24 shall:

25 (1) ensure that each person required to complete the  
26 training under Section 264.015, Family Code, as amended by this  
27 Act, completes the training not later than September 1, 2025; and

1                   (2) develop the plan required under Section  
2 264.015(a-2), Family Code, as added by this Act, not later than  
3 December 1, 2023.

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