

By: Campos

H.B. No. 2707

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the temporary emergency care of children in the
3 conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective
4 Services.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 264.107, Family Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (g) and adding Subsection (h) to read as
8 follows:

9 (g) If the department or single source continuum contractor
10 is unable to find an appropriate placement for a child, an employee
11 of the department or contractor who has on file with the department
12 or contractor, as applicable, a background and criminal history
13 check may provide temporary emergency care for the child. The
14 employee may not provide emergency care under this subsection in
15 the employee's residence. The department or contractor shall
16 provide notice to the court for a child placed in temporary care
17 under this subsection not later than the next ~~business~~ day after
18 the date the child is placed in temporary care.

19 (h) The department may enter into a residential lease
20 contract for the purpose of providing temporary emergency care
21 under Subsection (g). Placement of a child in a residence under
22 this subsection is not a substitute for an appropriate placement
23 and the department or single source continuum contractor shall
24 continue to make best efforts to find an appropriate placement for

1 the child. The department shall maintain a database of leased
2 residences available for the provision of temporary emergency care.

3 SECTION 2. Section 264.1071, Family Code, is amended to
4 read as follows:

5 Sec. 264.1071. OFFICE AND HOTEL STAYS PROHIBITED. (a) In
6 this section, "hotel" means a building in which members of the
7 public obtain temporary lodging for a fee. The term includes a
8 motel.

9 (b) The department may not allow a child under temporary
10 emergency care to stay overnight in a department office or hotel.

11 SECTION 3. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this
12 section, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

13 (b) The changes in law made by this Act to Section 264.1071,
14 Family Code, take effect March 1, 2024.