

By: Thompson, Lalani, et al.

H.B. No. 451

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a screening for the risk of commercial sexual exploitation of certain children.

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

SECTION 1. Section 266.012(a), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Not later than the 45th day after the date a child enters the conservatorship of the department, the child shall receive:

(1) a developmentally appropriate comprehensive assessment that includes [~~The assessment must include~~]:

(A) [(1)] a screening for trauma; and

(B) [(2)] interviews with individuals who have knowledge of the child's needs; and

(2) a screening for risk of commercial sexual exploitation using a validated, evidenced-informed tool selected by the Child Sex Trafficking Prevention Unit established under Section 772.0062, Government Code, if:

(A) validation guidelines based on the child's age indicate the screening is appropriate; or

(B) concerns of commercial sexual exploitation exist.

SECTION 2. Section 221.003(b), Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A juvenile probation department must, before the

1 disposition of a child's case and using a validated risk and needs
2 assessment instrument or process provided or approved by the
3 department, complete a risk and needs assessment for each child
4 under the jurisdiction of the juvenile probation department. The
5 risk and needs assessment must include a screening for risk of
6 commercial sexual exploitation using a validated,
7 evidence-informed tool selected by the Child Sex Trafficking
8 Prevention Unit established under Section [772.0062](#), Government
9 Code.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.