

1-1 By: Frank, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Sparks) H.B. No. 2789
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 29, 2025;
1-3 April 30, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
1-4 & Human Services; May 15, 2025, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 15, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14			X	
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the regulation of child welfare, including licensure,
1-20 community-based care contractors, family homes, and child-care
1-21 facilities.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 42, Human Resources Code,
1-24 is amended by adding Section 42.0413 to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 42.0413. EXEMPTION FOR SINGLE SOURCE CONTINUUM
1-26 CONTRACTORS. (a) In this section, "contractor" means a "single
1-27 source continuum contractor," which is contracted by the department
1-28 to provide community-based care, including the management and
1-29 oversight of foster care and other child welfare services,
1-30 consistent with the plan described by Section 264.153, Family Code.

1-31 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a
1-32 contractor is not required to obtain a child-placing agency license
1-33 for the purpose of fulfilling its contractual obligations to the
1-34 department.

1-35 (c) The exemption under Subsection (b) does not relieve a
1-36 contractor from compliance with other applicable laws, rules, or
1-37 regulations governing the provision of foster care, adoption
1-38 services, or other child welfare services, including requirements
1-39 to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of children in its
1-40 care.

1-41 (d) Nothing in this section may be construed to exempt any
1-42 subcontractor or child-placing agency working under a contractor
1-43 from the applicable licensing requirements under this chapter.

1-44 (e) A contractor may choose to obtain a child-placing agency
1-45 license under this chapter if it determines that obtaining such a
1-46 license would facilitate the performance of its contractual
1-47 obligations or provide additional operational flexibility.
1-48 Obtaining a license is not a requirement for a contractor to fulfill
1-49 its duties under this section.

1-50 SECTION 2. Section 42.043(b), Human Resources Code, is
1-51 amended to read as follows:

1-52 (b) The department shall require that each child at an
1-53 appropriate age ~~[have a test for tuberculosis and]~~ be immunized
1-54 against diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, mumps, rubella,
1-55 rubeola, invasive pneumococcal disease, and hepatitis A and against
1-56 any other communicable disease as recommended by the Department of
1-57 State Health Services. The immunization must be effective on the
1-58 date of first entry into the facility. However, a child may be
1-59 provisionally admitted if the required immunizations have begun and
1-60 are completed as rapidly as medically feasible.

1-61 SECTION 3. Section 42.049(a), Human Resources Code, is

2-1 amended to read as follows:

2-2 (a) A license or registration holder under this chapter
2-3 shall maintain liability insurance coverage in the amount of
2-4 \$100,000 [~~\$300,000~~] for each occurrence of negligence. An
2-5 insurance policy or contract required under this section must cover
2-6 injury to a child that occurs while the child is on the premises of
2-7 or in the care of the holder.

2-8 SECTION 4. Section 42.0495, Human Resources Code, is
2-9 amended to read as follows:

2-10 Sec. 42.0495. LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIRED FOR LISTED
2-11 FAMILY HOMES. (a) A listed family home shall maintain liability
2-12 insurance coverage in the amount of \$100,000 [~~\$300,000~~] for each
2-13 occurrence of negligence. An insurance policy or contract required
2-14 under this section must cover injury to a child that occurs while
2-15 the child is on the premises of or in the care of the listed family
2-16 home.

2-17 (b) [~~A listed family home shall annually file with the~~
2-18 ~~commission a certificate or other evidence of coverage from an~~
2-19 ~~insurance company demonstrating that the listed family home has an~~
2-20 ~~unexpired and uncanceled insurance policy or contract that meets~~
2-21 ~~the requirements of this section.~~

2-22 [(c)] If a listed family home is unable to secure a policy or
2-23 contract required under this section for financial reasons or for
2-24 lack of availability of an underwriter willing to issue a policy or
2-25 contract or the home's policy or contract limits are exhausted, the
2-26 home shall timely provide written notice to the parent or guardian
2-27 of each child attending the home that the liability coverage is not
2-28 provided.

2-29 (c) [(d)] A listed family home described by Subsection (b)
2-30 [(c)] shall timely provide written notice to the commission that
2-31 the home is unable to secure liability insurance and the reason the
2-32 insurance could not be secured.

2-33 (d) [(e)] If a listed family home complies with the notice
2-34 requirements under this section, the commission may not assess an
2-35 administrative penalty or suspend or revoke the family home's
2-36 listing for violating Subsection (a). This subsection may not be
2-37 construed to indemnify a family home for damages due to negligence.

2-38 SECTION 5. Section 42.051(b), Human Resources Code, is
2-39 amended to read as follows:

2-40 (b) An initial license is valid for 12 [~~six~~] months from the
2-41 date it is issued and may be renewed for an additional six months.

2-42 SECTION 6. Section 42.068, Human Resources Code, is amended
2-43 to read as follows:

2-44 Sec. 42.068. REQUIRED POSTING OF NO TRESPASSING NOTICE;
2-45 CRIMINAL PENALTY. (a) Each general residential operation
2-46 operating as a residential treatment center shall post "No
2-47 Trespassing" notices on the grounds of the general residential
2-48 operation [~~in the following locations.~~

2-49 [(1) ~~parallel to and along the exterior boundaries of~~
2-50 ~~the general residential operation's grounds,~~

2-51 [(2) ~~at each roadway or other way of access to the~~
2-52 ~~grounds,~~

2-53 [(3) ~~for grounds not fenced, at least every five~~
2-54 ~~hundred feet along the exterior boundaries of the grounds,~~

2-55 [(4) ~~at each entrance to the grounds, and~~

2-56 [(5) ~~at conspicuous places reasonably likely to be~~
2-57 ~~viewed by intruders].~~

2-58 (b) [~~Each "No Trespassing" notice posted on the grounds of a~~
2-59 ~~general residential operation operating as a residential treatment~~
2-60 ~~center must.~~

2-61 [(1) ~~state that entry to the property is forbidden,~~

2-62 [(2) ~~include a description of the provisions of~~
2-63 ~~Section 30.05, Penal Code, including the penalties for violating~~
2-64 ~~Section 30.05, Penal Code,~~

2-65 [(3) ~~include the name and address of the person under~~
2-66 ~~whose authority the notice is posted,~~

2-67 [(4) ~~be written in English and Spanish, and~~

2-68 [(5) ~~be at least 8-1/2 by 11 inches in size.~~

2-69 [(c)] The executive commissioner by rule shall determine

and prescribe the requirements regarding the placement, installation, design, size, wording, and maintenance procedures for the "No Trespassing" notices.

(c) ~~[(d)]~~ The commission shall provide without charge to each general residential operation operating as a residential treatment center the number of "No Trespassing" notices required to comply with this section and rules adopted under this section.

(d) ~~[(e)]~~ A person who operates a general residential operation operating as a residential treatment center commits an offense if the commission provides "No Trespassing" notices to the facility and the person fails to display the "No Trespassing" notices on the operation's grounds as required by this section before the end of the 30th business day after the date the operation receives the notices. An offense under this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 7. Sections 43.004(a) and (b), Human Resources Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible for a child-care administrator's license a person must:

(1) provide information for the department's use in conducting a criminal history and background check under Subsection (c), including a complete set of the person's fingerprints;

(2) satisfy the minimum requirements under department rules relating to criminal history and background checks;

(3) pass an examination developed and administered by the department that demonstrates competence in the field of child-care administration; and

(4) have an experiential or educational equivalent to that of a bachelor's degree in social work, child development, or a similar ~~[one year of full-time experience in management or supervision of child-care personnel and programs; and~~

~~[(5) have one of the following educational and experience qualifications:~~

~~[(A) a master's or doctoral degree in social work or other area of study; or~~

~~[(B) a bachelor's degree and two years' full-time experience in child care or a closely related] field.~~

(b) To be eligible for a child-placing agency administrator's license a person must:

(1) provide information for the department's use in conducting a criminal history and background check under Subsection (c), including a complete set of the person's fingerprints;

(2) satisfy the minimum requirements under department rules relating to criminal history and background checks;

(3) pass an examination developed and administered by the department that demonstrates competence in the field of placing children in residential settings or adoptive homes; and

(4) have an experiential or educational equivalent to that of a bachelor's degree in social work, child development, or a similar ~~[one year of full-time experience in management or supervision of child-placing personnel and programs; and~~

~~[(5) have one of the following educational and experience qualifications:~~

~~[(A) a master's or doctoral degree in social work or other area of study; or~~

~~[(B) a bachelor's degree and two years' full-time experience in the field of placing children in residential settings or adoptive homes or a closely related] field.~~

SECTION 8. Section 43.009(e), Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) If a person's license has been expired for longer than 90 days but less than one year, the person may renew the license by paying to the department one and one-half ~~[two]~~ times the required renewal fee.

SECTION 9. Section 42.0431(b), Human Resources Code, is repealed.

SECTION 10. (a) The commissioner of the Department of Family and Protective Services shall adopt rules necessary to implement the changes in law made by this Act not later than

4-1 December 1, 2025.

4-2 (b) The rules adopted to implement Section 42.0413, Human
4-3 Resources Code, as added by this Act, must ensure that single source
4-4 continuum contractors operate in a manner that continues to
4-5 prioritize the safety and well-being of children in the foster care
4-6 system.

4-7 SECTION 11. (a) Sections 3 and 4 of this Act take effect
4-8 January 1, 2026.

4-9 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (a) of this section,
4-10 this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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