

By: Bowers

H.B. No. 2902

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Supported Independent Living Program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 264.133 to read as follows:

Sec. 264.133. SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM. The department shall establish the supported independent living program to assist young adults interested in transitioning to voluntary extended foster care by:

(1) providing the young adult with an independent living placement that includes case management and support services with limited supervision; and

(2) assisting the young adult with becoming self-sufficient through:

(A) achieving identified educational and employment goals;

(B) accessing community resources;

(C) receiving training in life skills; and

(D) establishing important relationships.

SECTION 2. Section 264.121(i), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(i) The department shall ensure that the transition plan for each youth 16 years of age or older includes provisions to assist

1 the youth in managing the youth's housing needs after the youth
2 leaves foster care, including provisions that:

3 (1) identify the cost of housing in relation to the
4 youth's sources of income, including any benefits or rental
5 assistance available to the youth;

6 (2) if the youth's housing goals include residing with
7 family or friends, state that the department has addressed the
8 following with the youth:

9 (A) the length of time the youth expects to stay
10 in the housing arrangement;

11 (B) expectations for the youth regarding paying
12 rent and meeting other household obligations;

13 (C) the youth's psychological and emotional
14 needs, as applicable; and

15 (D) any potential conflicts with other household
16 members, or any difficulties connected to the type of housing the
17 youth is seeking, that may arise based on the youth's psychological
18 and emotional needs;

19 (3) inform the youth about emergency shelters and
20 housing resources, including supported [~~supervised~~] independent
21 living and housing at colleges and universities, such as
22 dormitories;

23 (4) require the department to review a common rental
24 application with the youth and ensure that the youth possesses all
25 of the documentation required to obtain rental housing; and

26 (5) identify any individuals who are able to serve as
27 cosigners or references on the youth's applications for housing.

1 SECTION 3. Sections 264.1214(a) and (f), Family Code, are
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (a) For a youth who will voluntarily enter extended foster
4 care on the youth's 18th birthday, the youth's caseworker shall, not
5 later than six months before the youth's 18th birthday, complete
6 any necessary transitional living or supported [~~supervised~~]
7 independent living paperwork to ensure the youth has housing on the
8 date the youth enters extended foster care. Not later than the 90th
9 day before the youth's 18th birthday, the caseworker shall review
10 the qualifications and requirements for the youth's housing.

11 (f) The department shall assist a youth living in a
12 supported [~~supervised~~] independent living program arrangement to
13 develop a rental history by allowing the youth to cosign the lease
14 for the youth's housing provided the property owner does not
15 object.

16 SECTION 4. Section 411.114(a)(3), Government Code, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 (3) In addition to the criminal history record
19 information the Department of Family and Protective Services or the
20 Health and Human Services Commission is required to obtain under
21 Subdivision (2), the Department of Family and Protective Services
22 or the Health and Human Services Commission, as applicable, is
23 entitled to obtain criminal history record information as provided
24 by Subdivision (4) that relates to a person who is:

25 (A) an applicant for a position with the
26 Department of Family and Protective Services or the Health and
27 Human Services Commission regardless of the duties of the position,

1 including a position described by Subdivision (2)(D);

2 (B) a Department of Family and Protective
3 Services employee or a Health and Human Services Commission
4 employee regardless of the duties of the employee's position,
5 including an employee described by Subdivision (2)(H);

6 (C) a volunteer or applicant volunteer with the
7 Department of Family and Protective Services or the Health and
8 Human Services Commission regardless of the duties to be performed,
9 including a registered volunteer;

10 (D) an employee of, an applicant for employment
11 with, or a volunteer or an applicant volunteer with an entity or
12 person who contracts with the Department of Family and Protective
13 Services or the Health and Human Services Commission, as
14 applicable, and has access to confidential information in that
15 department's or commission's records, if the employee, applicant,
16 volunteer, or applicant volunteer has or will have access to that
17 confidential information;

18 (E) a person living in the residence in which the
19 alleged victim of the report resides, including an alleged
20 perpetrator in a report described by Subdivision (2)(I);

21 (F) a person providing, at the request of the
22 child's parent, in-home care for a child who is the subject of a
23 report alleging the child has been abused or neglected;

24 (G) a person providing, at the request of the
25 child's parent, in-home care for a child only if the person gives
26 written consent to the release and disclosure of the information;

27 (H) a child who is related to the caretaker, as

1 determined under Section 42.002, Human Resources Code, or any other
2 person who resides in, is present in, or has unsupervised access to
3 a child in the care of a facility or family home;

4 (I) a relative of a child in the care of the
5 Department of Family and Protective Services or the Health and
6 Human Services Commission, as applicable, to the extent necessary
7 to comply with Section 162.007, Family Code;

8 (J) a person providing or applying to provide
9 in-home, adoptive, or foster care for children to the extent
10 necessary to comply with Subchapter B, Chapter 162, Family Code;

11 (K) a person who volunteers to supervise
12 visitation under Subchapter B, Chapter 263, Family Code;

13 (L) an employee of or volunteer at, or an
14 applicant for employment with or to be a volunteer at, an entity
15 that provides supported [~~supervised~~] independent living services
16 to a young adult receiving extended foster care services from the
17 Department of Family and Protective Services or the Health and
18 Human Services Commission, as applicable;

19 (M) a person 14 years of age or older who will be
20 regularly or frequently working or staying in a host home that is
21 providing supported [~~supervised~~] independent living services to a
22 young adult receiving extended foster care services from the
23 Department of Family and Protective Services or the Health and
24 Human Services Commission, as applicable;

25 (N) a volunteer or applicant volunteer with a
26 local affiliate in this state of Big Brothers Big Sisters of
27 America;

1 (O) a volunteer or applicant volunteer with an
2 organization that provides court-appointed volunteer advocates for
3 abused or neglected children; or

4 (P) an employee, volunteer, or applicant
5 volunteer of a children's advocacy center under Subchapter E,
6 Chapter 264, Family Code, including a member of the governing board
7 of a center.

8 SECTION 5. Section 40.081(a), Human Resources Code, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (a) In furtherance of department duties under Section
11 40.002(d), the department shall to the greatest extent possible
12 develop capacity for placement settings that are eligible for
13 federal financial participation under 42 U.S.C. Section 672,
14 including settings:

15 (1) specializing in providing prenatal, postpartum,
16 or parenting support for youth;

17 (2) providing high-quality residential care and
18 supportive services to children and youth who this state has
19 reasonable cause to believe are, or who are at risk of being, sex
20 trafficking victims in accordance with 42 U.S.C. Section
21 671(a)(9)(C);

22 (3) providing supported [~~supervised~~] independent
23 living for young adults;

24 (4) offering residential family-based substance abuse
25 treatment as described by 42 U.S.C. Section 672(j); and

26 (5) serving as a qualified residential treatment
27 program.

1 SECTION 6. Not later than January 1, 2026, the Department of
2 Family and Protective Services shall change any informational
3 materials related to the supervised independent living program to
4 reflect the supported independent living program name.

5 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.