

By: West, Menéndez

S.B. No. 596

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to reporting certain information regarding the placement of children and suits filed by the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 264.017(b) and (f), Family Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) The department shall provide the report required by Subsection (a) to the legislature and shall publish the report and make the report available electronically to the public not later than February 1 of each year. The report must include, with respect to the preceding year:

(1) information on the number and disposition of reports of child abuse and neglect received by the department;

(2) information on the number of clients for whom the department took protective action, including investigations, alternative responses, and court-ordered removals;

(3) information on the number of clients for whom the department provided services in each program administered by the child protective services division, including investigations, alternative responses, family-based safety services, conservatorship, post-adoption services, and transitional living services;

(4) the number of children in this state who died as a

1 result of child abuse or neglect;

2 (5) the number of children described by Subdivision  
3 (4) for whom the department was the children's managing conservator  
4 at the time of death;

5 (6) information on the timeliness of the department's  
6 initial contact in an investigation or alternative response;

7 (7) information on the response time by the department  
8 in commencing services to families and children for whom an  
9 allegation of child abuse or neglect has been made;

10 (8) information regarding child protection staffing  
11 and caseloads by program area;

12 (9) information on the permanency goals in place and  
13 achieved for children in the managing conservatorship of the  
14 department, including information on the timeliness of achieving  
15 the goals, the stability of the children's placement in foster  
16 care, and the proximity of placements to the children's home  
17 counties;

18 (10) the number of children who suffer from a severe  
19 emotional disturbance and for whom the department is appointed  
20 managing conservator, including statistics on appointments as  
21 joint managing conservator, due to an individual voluntarily  
22 relinquishing custody of a child solely to obtain mental health  
23 services for the child;

24 (11) the number of children who are pregnant or a  
25 parent while in the managing conservatorship of the department and  
26 the number of the children born to a parent in the managing  
27 conservatorship of the department who are placed in the managing

conservatorship of the department;

(12) the number of children who are missing from the children's substitute care provider while in the managing conservatorship of the department; ~~and~~

(13) the number of children who were victims of trafficking under Chapter 20A, Penal Code, while in the managing conservatorship of the department; and

(14) information on the outcome of each suit filed by the department and the type of placement of the child during the pendency of the suit.

(f) In addition to the other reports required by this section, the department shall publish on the department's Internet website a monthly report containing the following information for the preceding month:

(1) with respect to parental child safety placement agreements:

(A) ~~(1)~~ the number of children placed under a parental child safety placement agreement, disaggregated by:

(i) the child's age, race, gender, ethnicity, and county of residence;

(ii) the annualized incomes of the parent or other person with whom the child resides and the caregiver of the child; and

(iii) whether the child has previously been in the managing conservatorship of the department;

(B) the number of parental child safety placement agreements in effect on the last day of the month;

1                    (C) [~~(2)~~] the average duration of a placement  
2 under a parental child safety placement agreement;

3                    (D) [~~(3)~~] the average duration of a placement  
4 under a parental child safety placement agreement during an  
5 investigation; and

6                    (E) [~~(4)~~] the percentage of children removed  
7 from a placement under a parental child safety placement agreement  
8 and placed in the managing conservatorship of the department; and

9                    (2) by child protective services region with respect  
10 to:

11                    (A) authorization agreements executed under  
12 Chapter 34 regarding a child who is the subject of an investigation  
13 of abuse or neglect, a suit filed by the department, or an agreement  
14 under which the department provides services to the child's parent:

15                    (i) the number of authorization agreements  
16 executed;

17                    (ii) the number of children subject to  
18 authorization agreements, disaggregated by the child's race and  
19 gender; and

20                    (iii) the average duration of an  
21 authorization agreement; and

22                    (B) court orders for temporary authorization for  
23 care of a child under Chapter 35 regarding a child who is the  
24 subject of an investigation of abuse or neglect, a suit filed by the  
25 department, or an agreement under which the department provides  
26 services to the child's parent:

27                    (i) the number of orders signed;

1                    (ii) the number of children subject to  
2 orders, disaggregated by the child's race and gender; and  
3                    (iii) the average duration of an order.

4            SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.