

By: Sparks

S.B. No. 1148

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to required training for caregivers to children, including foster parents.

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

SECTION 1. Section 42.0537, Human Resources Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (b-2) to read as follows:

(a) The department and each single source continuum contractor shall include a provision in each contract with a child-placing agency with whom children in the managing conservatorship of the department are placed that requires the child-placing agency to provide competency-based, preservice training to a potential caregiver before the child-placing agency verifies or approves the caregiver as a foster or adoptive home. Except as provided by Subsection (d), the amount of training required by this subsection may not exceed 20 [~~35~~] hours.

(b) The department shall adopt policies to ensure that each potential caregiver receives competency-based, preservice training before the department verifies or approves the caregiver as a foster or adoptive home. Except as provided by Subsection (d), the amount of training required by this subsection may not exceed 20 [~~35~~] hours.

(b-1) Prior to licensure renewal, each caregiver shall successfully complete competency-based, annual training on

1 subjects affecting the daily living experiences of foster parenting
2 and the needs of children in care. The amount of annual training
3 required of each caregiver may not exceed 10 hours. The department,
4 single source continuum contractor, or child-placing agency
5 licensing the caregiver shall ensure that required annual training
6 subjects are relevant to the caregiver's license or the unique
7 needs of the children placed with the caregiver. The commissioner
8 and executive commissioner shall collaborate to adopt rules
9 necessary to implement this subsection.

10 (b-2) A foster parent may waive the daily reimbursement rate
11 for foster care services. If the foster parent elects to waive the
12 daily reimbursement rate, the foster parent shall be exempt from
13 the annual training requirements under Subsection (b-1) except for
14 any training the department, child-placing agency, or single source
15 continuum contractor determines is necessary to meet the unique
16 needs of the child placed with the foster parent. Such training may
17 not exceed five hours per year. The commissioner and executive
18 commissioner shall collaborate to adopt rules necessary to
19 implement this subsection.

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