

By: Parker

S.B. No. 1282

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorizing adoption assistance agreements for certain children after a final adoption order is rendered.

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

SECTION 1. Section 162.304, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-3) to read as follows:

(b-3) The department may enter into an adoption assistance agreement for a child after a court has entered a final order of adoption if the child:

(1) after the adoption is finalized, is diagnosed by the child's health care provider as having special needs; and

(2) would have qualified for adoption assistance under Subsection (a) if the child was determined to have special needs before the adoption.

SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply to an adoption for which the final order is rendered before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. The Department of Family and Protective Services is required to implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the department may, but is not required to, implement a provision of this Act using other money available for that purpose.

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