

By: Watson

S.B. No. 820

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to leave for state employees who are foster parents or prospective foster parents.

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

SECTION 1. Section 661.906, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 661.906. FOSTER PARENTS. (a) A state employee who is a foster parent to a child under the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective ~~[and Regulatory]~~ Services is entitled to a leave of absence without a deduction in salary for the purpose of attending:

(1) meetings held by the Department of Family and Protective ~~[and Regulatory]~~ Services regarding the child under the foster care of the employee; or

(2) an admission, review, and dismissal meeting held by a school district regarding the child under the foster care of the employee.

(b) A state employee who is a foster parent or who is in the process of becoming a foster parent is entitled to leave without a deduction in salary or loss of vacation time, sick leave, earned overtime credit, or state compensatory time, in an amount not to exceed 40 hours each year, to participate in training or other activities related to becoming a foster parent and fostering a child, including attending the foster child's medical appointments

1 and taking the foster child to court-ordered visitation with the  
2 foster child's parent. The leave provided by this subsection is in  
3 addition to the leave provided by Subsection (a).

4       SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.