

By: Minjarez

H.B. No. 1608

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creating a pilot program to provide summer internships for foster children.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 264.1251 to read as follows:

Sec. 264.1251. SUMMER INTERNSHIP PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The department shall establish a summer internship pilot program that provides foster children with the opportunity to develop marketable job skills and obtain professional work experience through a summer internship with a participating business, nonprofit organization, or governmental entity.

(b) The department may collaborate with other state agencies, as appropriate, to establish the pilot program. The pilot program may be implemented in more than one department region.

(c) The department may enter into an agreement with one or more entities described by Subsection (a) to allow the entity to award internships to children who participate in the pilot program. Internships provided under the pilot program may be paid or unpaid.

(d) Not later than April 1 of each year, the department shall select foster children or former foster children who are 15 years of age or older to participate in the pilot program. Each child participating in the pilot program shall enter into an

1 agreement with the organization awarding the internship and the
2 department relating to the terms of the child's internship.

3 (e) The department shall complete an evaluation of the pilot
4 program not later than the second anniversary of the date the
5 program begins.

6 (f) The department shall submit a report on the evaluation
7 of the pilot program to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and
8 the speaker of the house of representatives. The report must
9 include:

10 (1) the number of children who participated in the
11 pilot program;

12 (2) the location and type of internships provided
13 under the pilot program; and

14 (3) details of the department's efforts to recruit
15 eligible children to participate in the pilot program.

16 (g) The executive commissioner may adopt rules necessary to
17 implement this section.

18 (h) This section expires September 1, 2021.

19 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2018, the Department of
20 Family and Protective Services shall establish the pilot program
21 required by Section 264.1251, Family Code, as added by this Act.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.