

By: Swanson

H.B. No. 3562

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorizing the foster parent of a foster child to take certain actions to protect the child from violence and kidnapping.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 262, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 262.015 to read as follows:

Sec. 262.015. USE OF ASSUMED NAME FOR CHILD. (a) At a hearing held under this chapter or Chapter 263, if the court makes a finding that there is reasonable cause to believe that a child is at risk for violence or kidnapping perpetrated by the child's parent or a person associated with the child's parent, the court may render an order authorizing the foster parent of the child to:

(1) enroll the child in school and age-appropriate normalcy activities, as that term is defined by Section 264.001, under an assumed name; or

(2) move the child to a location outside of the county in which the foster parent resides.

(b) If the court authorizes a foster parent of a child to enroll the child in school or age-appropriate normalcy activities under an assumed name, the foster parent shall choose an assumed name for the child and shall notify the Department of Family and Protective Services and the court of the assumed name. The court and the department may not disclose the assumed name chosen for the child to any other party to the suit involving the child, including

1 to the child's parent.

2 (c) A school in which a child is enrolled under an assumed  
3 name may not disclose the child's enrollment in the school to any  
4 person, even if the person presents the school with alternative  
5 identification information for the child, including the child's  
6 social security number. This subsection does not apply to the  
7 disclosure of enrollment information to a Department of Family and  
8 Protective Services employee who is assigned to the child's case.

9 (d) The Department of Family and Protective Services may  
10 adopt rules to implement this section and may collaborate with the  
11 Texas Education Agency to adopt rules to implement Subsection (c).

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.