

1-1 By: Perry S.B. No. 2693
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2025; April 3, 2025, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice;
1-4 April 23, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6,
1-5 Nays 0; April 23, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Flores	X		
1-9	Parker	X		
1-10	Hagenbuch	X		
1-11	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	X		
1-12	Huffman	X		
1-13	King	X		
1-14	Miles		X	

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the role of advocacy and support groups in the juvenile
1-18 justice system.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Section 203.017(b-1), Human Resources Code, is
1-21 amended to read as follows:

1-22 (b-1) In addition to the requirements of Subsection (b), in
1-23 developing the regionalization plan, the department shall consult
1-24 with:

- 1-25 (1) the advisory council on juvenile services;
1-26 (2) juvenile probation departments;
1-27 (3) regional juvenile probation associations;
1-28 (4) ~~advocacy groups~~;
1-29 ~~[(5)]~~ parents and guardians of children under the
1-30 jurisdiction of the department;
1-31 (5) ~~[(6)]~~ individuals formerly involved in the
1-32 juvenile justice system; and
1-33 (6) ~~[(7)]~~ any other stakeholder the department
1-34 determines may be helpful.

1-35 SECTION 2. Section 242.056, Human Resources Code, is
1-36 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsections
1-37 (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

1-38 (a) If the department finds that the involvement of an
1-39 advocacy or support group is in the best interest of a child, the
1-40 [The] department may [shall] allow an advocacy or [and] support
1-41 group [groups] whose primary function is [functions are] to benefit
1-42 children, inmates, girls and women, persons with mental illness, or
1-43 victims of sexual assault to provide on-site information, support,
1-44 and other services for the child [children] confined in a
1-45 department facility [facilities].

1-46 (b) The department shall adopt security and privacy
1-47 procedures for advocacy and support groups that provide on-site
1-48 information, support, and other services under this section. ~~[The~~
1-49 ~~security and privacy procedures may not be designed to deny an~~
1-50 ~~advocacy or support group access to children confined in department~~
1-51 ~~facilities.]~~

1-52 (d) Except as provided by Subsection (e), the department
1-53 shall deny admission to a department facility to an advocacy or
1-54 support group that has filed:

1-55 (1) a complaint with the federal government regarding
1-56 the department, while the investigation regarding the complaint is
1-57 pending; or

1-58 (2) a lawsuit against the department, while the
1-59 lawsuit is pending.

1-60 (e) The department shall allow an advocacy or support group
1-61 to provide information, support, or services under this section if

2-1 admission of an advocacy or support group to a department facility
2-2 is required by federal law.

2-3 (f) Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent an
2-4 attorney from meeting with a client or a potential client that has
2-5 inquired about the attorney's services.

2-6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

2-7 * * * * *