AN ACT
relating to the transitional living services program for certain youth in foster care.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 264.121, Family Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a–i) and (f) and adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(a–i) The department shall require a foster care provider to provide or assist youth who are age 14 or older in obtaining experiential life-skills training to improve their transition to independent living. Experiential life-skills training must be tailored to a youth's skills and abilities and must include training in practical activities that include grocery shopping, meal preparation and cooking, performing basic household tasks, balancing a checkbook, and, when appropriate, using public transportation.

(f) The department shall require a person with whom the department contracts for transitional living services for foster youth to provide or assist youth in obtaining:

(1) housing services;
(2) job training and employment services;
(3) college preparation services;
(4) services that will assist youth in obtaining a general education development certificate;
(5) services that will assist youth in developing skills in food preparation;
(6) nutrition education that promotes healthy food choices; and
(7) any other appropriate transitional living service identified by the department.

(g) An entity with which the department contracts for transitional living services for foster youth shall, when appropriate, partner with a community-based organization to assist the entity in providing the transitional living services.

SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a person who enters into a contract with the Department of Family and Protective Services to provide transitional living services for foster youth on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on May 2, 2013: Yeas 143, Nays 4, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 20, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.