

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 584

BY REPRESENTATIVES BOYD, TAYLOR, BAYHAM, BEAULLIEU, BERAULT, BILLINGS, BOUDREAUX, BRASS, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARLSON, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, CHASSION, COX, DESHOTEL, DEWITT, DICKERSON, FISHER, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, GREEN, HEBERT, DANA HENRY, ILLG, JACKSON, JORDAN, KNOX, LACOMBE, LAFLEUR, JACOB LANDRY, MANDIE LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, MARTINEZ, MOORE, MURRAY, NEWELL, PHELPS, SCHLEGEL, WALTERS, WYBLE, AND YOUNG

CHILDREN/FOSTER CARE: Provides relative to children in foster care

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 46:286.16, relative to children in foster care, to provide for the
3 privileges of children in foster care; to provide for age adjustments; to provide for
4 the elimination of the practice of providing foster children with garbage bags to
5 move between foster homes; to require proper luggage for a foster child's use; to
6 provide for definitions; to provide for the responsibilities of local social services
7 districts; to provide for responsibilities of host families; and to provide for related
8 matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 46:286.16 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 SUBPART D-1A. PRIVILEGES OF FOSTER YOUTH'S BILL OF RIGHTS YOUTH

12 §286.16. Short title; purpose; ~~rights~~

13 A. This Subpart shall be cited as the "Privileges of Foster Youth's Bill of
14 Rights Youth".

15 B. The Department of Children and Family Services shall implement,
16 promote, and support the ~~rights~~ privileges contained in this Section through the

1 policies and practices of the department as applied to youth ages ~~fourteen~~ zero
2 through eighteen who are in foster care in this state.

3 C. Youth ages ~~fourteen~~ zero through eighteen in foster care in this state ~~are~~
4 ~~entitled to~~ shall receive the following ~~rights~~ privileges granted to them when it is
5 determined by the department to be in the best interest of the youth:

6 (1) The ~~right~~ privilege to privacy concerning the youth's personal and
7 confidential information.

8 (2) The ~~right~~ privilege to attend all court hearings regarding the care to be
9 received.

10 (3) The ~~right~~ privilege to be in a stable and supportive setting that is free
11 from neglect and emotional, verbal, physical, and sexual abuse or exploitation, and
12 that is the least restrictive to meet the youth's needs.

13 (4) The ~~right~~ privilege to participate in all case plan meetings, to include
14 supportive adults of the youth's choice to be on the planning team, and to be provided
15 a copy of the youth's case plan every six months or whenever changes are made to
16 the plan.

17 (5) The ~~right~~ privilege to have the youth's medical and mental health needs
18 met on a regular and timely basis.

19 (6) The ~~right~~ privilege to be provided adequate trauma-based counseling and
20 therapeutic services throughout the youth's time in foster care.

21 (7) The ~~right~~ privilege to be provided the contact information of the youth's
22 caseworker, attorney, and CASA volunteer, and to attend meetings with them on a
23 regular basis.

24 (8) The ~~right~~ privilege to have access to a telephone to talk to or visit with
25 approved friends and relatives, including siblings, at least once a month.

26 (9) The ~~right~~ privilege to access materials necessary for school and to further
27 the youth's education, including access to a computer or other electronic devices and
28 to the internet when needed to complete assignments, the ~~right~~ privilege to receive

1 tutoring services, and the ~~right~~ privilege to access information regarding college
2 admissions.

3 (10) The ~~right~~ privilege to access information regarding testing
4 accommodations for any learning or developmental disability or special health need.

5 (11) The ~~right~~ privilege to be involved in extracurricular activities, including
6 school clubs, dances, field trips, and sports teams, and to be provided with supplies
7 and uniforms required for team participation.

8 (12) The ~~right~~ privilege to remain in the youth's school of origin.

9 (13) The ~~right~~ privilege to attend a driver's education class.

10 (14) The ~~right~~ privilege to obtain employment and transportation to
11 employment within the vicinity of foster care placement.

12 (15) The ~~right~~ privilege to refuse involvement in religious-based activities
13 and the ~~right~~ privilege to continue the youth's cultural, religious, and ethnic traditions
14 and belief systems.

15 (16) The ~~right~~ privilege to be free from discrimination of any kind on the
16 basis of the youth's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion,
17 national, ethnic, or social origin, property, disability, birth, or other status.

18 (17) The ~~right~~ privilege to attend and have transportation to services, events,
19 and activities provided by the Independent Living Skills Program within the youth's
20 region, the ~~right~~ privilege to receive timely notification of upcoming youth advocacy
21 and engagement services in the youth's region, and the ~~right~~ privilege to be provided
22 with the entire amount of the monthly allowance as outlined in department policy.

23 (18) The ~~right~~ privilege to express and voice the youth's needs, concerns, and
24 desires about foster care.

25 (19)(a) The privilege to proper luggage that is considered to be durable and
26 reusable containers that are in new or like-new condition to move between foster
27 homes to ensure their dignity and safety. Luggage includes backpacks, boxes, duffel
28 bags, or suitcases. The use of garbage bags is strictly prohibited.

1 (b) It is the responsibility of the local social services districts to provide
 2 foster children with proper luggage. These districts along with the Department of
 3 Children and Family Services shall host biennial luggage donation drives for luggage
 4 to be distributed to foster children.

5 (c) It is the responsibility of the host family to ensure that the luggage
 6 provided by the Department of Children and Family Services goes with each child.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 584 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Boyd

Abstract: Provides for the privileges of foster children to have proper luggage to move between foster homes instead of garbage bags, the responsibilities of local social services districts to provide proper luggage, the responsibilities of host families to ensure that the luggage remains with the children, and provides for expanding the age range of foster children covered under these provisions.

Proposed law changes all mention of the words "right" and "rights" to "privilege" and "privileges" in the applicable statute.

Proposed law expands the age range of fourteen through eighteen to zero through eighteen.

Proposed law provides foster children the privilege to proper luggage when moving between foster homes to ensure their dignity and safety.

Proposed law defines luggage and specifies the condition the luggage must be in.

Proposed law strictly prohibits the use of garbage bags as luggage for foster children.

Proposed law provides for the responsibilities of local social services districts to provide foster children with proper luggage.

Proposed law provides for the responsibilities of host families to ensure that luggage remains with the children.

Proposed law provides for local social service districts and DCFS to host biennial luggage donation drives for luggage to be distributed to foster children.

(Amends R.S. 46:286.16)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Provide that it is the responsibility of the host family to ensure that the luggage provided by DCFS goes with each child.

2. Add that the local social services districts and DCFS will host biennial luggage donation drives for luggage to be distributed to foster children.
3. Make technical amendments.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Expand the age range of applicability for foster youth from fourteen through eighteen to zero through eighteen.
2. Eliminate the use of the words "right" and "rights" throughout present law and change them to "privilege" and "privileges".
3. Provide that foster children shall receive the listed privileges.