

- SUBJECT:** Allowing computers refurbished by TDCJ to go to youths in foster care
- COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Cook, Giddings, Craddick, Farrar, Geren, K. King, Kuempel, Meyer, Paddie, E. Rodriguez, Smithee
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Guillen, Oliveira
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 19 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** No public hearing
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code, sec. 497.012 authorizes the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to receive surplus or salvage data processing equipment from state agencies and from political subdivisions. If TDCJ determines that it is economically feasible, it is required to repair or refurbish the surplus or salvage equipment. TDCJ must sell the repaired or refurbished data processing equipment to school districts, state agencies, or political subdivisions of the state, in that order of preference.
- In fiscal 2016, TDCJ distributed about 7,900 computers at no cost through this process, mainly to schools. TDCJ recovers its expenses for the program by recycling some equipment and through other means. Some would like to expand the distribution of the equipment to include youths in foster care associated with court-appointed special advocate programs.
- DIGEST:** SB 78 would add to the list of entities that may receive repaired or refurbished data processing equipment from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to include certain statewide and volunteer organizations involved in court-appointed advocacy programs for use by youth in foster care. These groups would be junior in preference to the three entities in current statute.

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The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

NOTES:

A companion bill, HB 1883 by Price, was referred to the House Committee on State Affairs on March 13.