

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 584

BY REPRESENTATIVES BOYD AND TAYLOR

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

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 46:286.16(C)(19), relative to the rights of foster children; to provide for the
3 elimination of the practice of providing foster children with garbage bags to move
4 between foster homes; to require proper luggage for a foster child's use; to provide
5 for definitions; to provide for the responsibilities of local social services districts; to
6 provide for responsibilities of host families; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 46:286.16(C)(19) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §286.16. Short title; purpose; rights

10 * * *

11 C. Youth ages fourteen through eighteen in foster care in this state are
12 entitled to the following rights granted to them when it is determined by the
13 department to be in the best interest of the youth:

14 * * *

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

19 (b) It is the responsibility of the local social services districts to provide
20 foster children with proper luggage. These districts along with the Department of

1 Children and Family Services shall host biennial luggage donation drives for luggage
2 to be distributed to foster children.

3 (c) It is the responsibility of the host family to ensure that the luggage
4 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 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Boyd

Abstract: Provides for the rights of foster children to have proper luggage to move between foster homes instead of garbage bags, and the responsibilities of local social services districts to provide proper luggage.

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

(Adds R.S. 46:286.16(C)(19))

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.