

- SUBJECT:** Recodification of provisions on the parent child relationship
- COMMITTEE:** Juvenile Justice and Family Issues — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 5 ayes — Goodman, Cook, Brady, De La Garza, Van de Putte
0 nays
4 absent — H. Cuellar, Naishtat, Puente, Williamson
- WITNESSES:** For — Jack Sampson, Family Code Revision Committee, State Bar of Texas
Against — None
On — Charles G. Childress, special counsel to Child Support Division, Office of Attorney General, Howard G. Baldwin, Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
- BACKGROUND:** The Joint Interim Committee on the Family Code recommended a recodification of Title 2 of the Texas Family Code. The committee found that numerous revisions of the code over the years had created an illogical structure and recommended adoption of a draft by the Family Law Revision Committee of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Texas.
- DIGEST:** HB 655 proposes a nonsubstantive recodification of the Family Code statutes relating to parents and children and suits affecting the parent-child relationship. Statutes on these topics would be moved from Title 2 of the Family Code, Chapters 41, 45, 47, 49, 76, 77 and 151 of the Human Resources Code and Subchapter A, Chapter 54 of the Government Code to a new Title 5 of the Family Code. The revised Title 2 would retain existing statutes relating to limitations on minors, parental liability, civil liability for interfering with possessory order and changing a child's name.

HB 655 specifies that former law would remain in effect for any pending proceeding and the bill's enactment would not constitute a change in circumstances requiring modification of a child support or custody order.

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The bill would take immediate effect if approved by two thirds of the membership of each house.