

- SUBJECT:** Allowing foster parents to intervene in certain lawsuits
- COMMITTEE:** Juvenile Justice and Family Issues — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Dutton, Dale, Biedermann, Cain, Moody, Schofield, Thierry
0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Will Francis, National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter; Judy Powell, Parent Guidance Center; Meagan Corser, Texas Home School Coalition; Brandon Logan, Texas Public Policy Foundation; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Katherine Barillas, One Voice Texas; Johana Scot, Parent Guidance Center; Andrew Homer, Texas CASA; Lee Nichols, TexProtects)

Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Family Code, sec. 102.004 allows grandparents and certain other individuals with a connection to a child to intervene in suits affecting the parent-child relationship.

Some have suggested that foster parents should be permitted to have more influence in conservatorship suits, given the central role they may play in the life of a child who is the subject of the suit.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1410 would allow foster parents to intervene in suits affecting the parent-child relationship if a child had been placed in the home by the Department of Family and Protective Services for at least 12 months and it had not been more than 90 days since the placement ended when the intervention was filed.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017, and would apply only to original lawsuits filed on or after that date.