

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.B. 34
By: Zaffirini
Jurisprudence
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Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST

Currently, Title 5, Family Code, sets forth the guidelines relating to, among other items, the termination of the parent-child relationship and adoption. Approximately 1,400 children in court-ordered state conservatorship for whom the plan was adopted under the guidelines of Title 5, Family Code, were legally free for adoption. Approximately one third of these 1,400 children had been waiting for more than two years to be adopted, 16 percent of which had been waiting for over three years. Approximately 40 percent of the children in the custody of the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services had been in such custody for more than two years. The *Report of the Governor's Committee to Promote Adoption* has suggested various revisions to Title 5, Family Code, relating to the parent-child relationship, suits affecting the parent-child relationship, and the protection of children, in order to promote adoption in Texas. This bill would amend Title 5, Family Code, to reflect the changes suggested by the Governor's Report to promote adoption.

PURPOSE

As proposed, C.S.S.B. 34 amends guidelines relating to parent-child relationship, suits affecting the parent-child relationship, and the protection of children in Title 5, Family Code.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is granted to the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services in SECTION 26 (Section 264.207(a), Family Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 102.009(a), Family Code, to provide that a man, among others, who has filed a notice of intent to claim paternity as provided by Chapter 160D, Family Code, is entitled to service of citation on the filing of a petition in an original suit, except as provided in Subsection (b). Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 102.011(b), Family Code, to authorize a court to exercise personal jurisdiction over a person on whom service of citation is required or over the person's personal representatives, although the person is not a resident or domiciliary of this state, if, among other options, the person registered with the paternity registry maintained by the bureau of vital statistics (bureau) as provided by Chapter 160, Family Code. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 107.006, Family Code, to provide that before a person may be appointed as guardian ad litem or attorney ad litem, the person must, among other conditions, complete training approved, rather than provided, by the State Bar of Texas in, among other items, the representation of children; and the person must complete as part of the person's annual continuing legal education requirement no fewer than three hours in family law issues related to the representation of children. Authorizes a party to a proceeding in which a person is appointed as a guardian ad litem or an attorney ad litem to object to appointment of the person at any time before the date of the trial of the proceeding by filing a written motion. Requires the court to promptly rule on an objection raised under this subsection and to order the removal of the guardian ad litem or attorney ad litem if the court finds that the objection is justifiable, rather than reasonable. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 159.201, Family Code, to authorize a tribunal of this state, in a proceeding to establish, enforce, or modify a support order or to determine parentage, to exercise personal jurisdiction over a nonresident individual or the individual's guardian or conservator if, among other options, the individual asserted parentage in the paternity registry maintained in this state by the bureau. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 5. Amends Chapter 160, Family Code, by adding Subchapter D, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. PATERNITY REGISTRY

Sec. 160.251. **PATERNITY REGISTRY; PURPOSE.** Requires the bureau to establish a paternity registry (registry). Requires the bureau to administer the registry to protect the parental rights of fathers who affirmatively assume responsibility for children they may have fathered; and expedite adoptions of children whose biological fathers are unwilling to assume responsibility for their children by registering with the registry or otherwise acknowledging their children. Provides that the registry does not relieve a mother of the obligation to identify the known father of her child. Provides that a man is not required to register with the paternity registry if he is presumed to be the biological father of a child under Chapter 151; or has been adjudicated to be the biological father of a child by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Sec. 160.252. **REQUIRED INFORMATION.** Requires a man registering with the registry to provide certain information.

Sec. 160.253. **INFORMATION MAINTAINED BY REGISTRY.** Requires the registry to record the name, address, driver's license number, and social security number of a man who claims to be the father of a child whose paternity has not been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction by giving notice of intent to claim paternity, as provided by this subchapter.

Sec. 160.254. **KNOWLEDGE OF PREGNANCY.** Provides that a person who has sexual intercourse with a person of the opposite sex is deemed to have knowledge that sexual intercourse can result in the woman's pregnancy. Requires a man who claims to be the father of a child to file a notice of intent to assert his right to establish paternity of a child that may result from sexual intercourse. Provides that ignorance of a pregnancy is not a sufficient reason for failing to register with the registry to claim paternity of the child born of the pregnancy.

Sec. 160.255. **FURNISHING OF REGISTRY INFORMATION; CONFIDENTIALITY; OFFENSE.** Requires the registry, if the mother's address has been provided, to send a copy of the notice of intent to claim paternity to the mother as notification that a man has registered with the registry claiming to be the father of the mother's child. Provides that the information contained in the registry is confidential and may be released on request only to certain entities and persons. Requires the registry to furnish registry information by electronic data exchange or any other means to the state's Title IV-D agency and the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS). Provides that a person commits a Class B misdemeanor if the person intentionally and unlawfully releases information from the registry to the public or makes any other unlawful use of the information in violation of this subchapter.

Sec. 160.256. **NOTICE OF INTENT TO CLAIM PATERNITY.** Authorizes a person, except as provided by this section, to register as provided by this subchapter by filing a notice of intent to claim paternity on a form provided by the bureau. Requires the form to be signed and acknowledged before a notary public. Requires the bureau to make registration forms available to certain entities and persons. Authorizes a notice of intent to claim paternity to be filed before the birth of the child but may not be filed after the 30th day after the date of birth of the child. Requires the bureau, if the bureau has received from the clerk of the court notice under Chapter 108 of a decree terminating the parent-child relationship between the person applying to the register and the child, to notify the person that the person's parent-child relationship with the child has been terminated and may not enter into the registry a

notice of intent to claim paternity filed by the person.

Sec. 160.257. DENIAL OF REGISTRANT'S PATERNITY; NOTIFICATION. Authorizes the mother, by the 30th day after the date of the receipt of notification from the bureau that a notice of intent to claim paternity has been filed, to deny the registrant's claim of paternity on a form provided by the bureau and signed and acknowledged before a notary public. Requires the bureau, if the mother denies that the registrant is the father of the child, to immediately notify the registrant of the denial and of the registrant's right to file a legal action to establish paternity.

Sec. 160.258. EFFECT OF FAILURE TO FILE NOTICE OF INTENT. Prohibits a man who fails to file a notice of intent to claim paternity before the 30th day after the date of the birth of the child from asserting an interest in the child other than by filing a suit to establish paternity before the termination of the man's parental rights, except as provided by Chapter 102 and Chapter 161.

Sec. 160.259. CHANGE OR REVOCATION OF REGISTRY INFORMATION. Requires a man who files a notice of intent to claim paternity with the registry to promptly notify the registry in writing of any change in the information. Authorizes a man who files a notice of intent to claim paternity to revoke at any time the notice by sending the registry a written statement. Requires the statement to include a declaration that the registrant is not the father of the named child; or a court has adjudicated paternity and a person other than the registrant has been determined to be the father of the child.

Sec. 160.260. FURNISHING OF CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRY SEARCH. Requires the bureau, on request, to furnish a certificate attesting to the results of a search of the registry regarding a notice of intent to claim paternity to certain entities or persons.

Sec. 160.261. REMOVAL OF REGISTRANT'S NAME. Requires the court, if a court determines that a registrant is not the father of the child, to order the bureau to remove the registrant's name from the registry. Requires the bureau, upon receipt of an order for the removal of a registrant's name, to remove the name from the registry.

Sec. 160.262. REGISTRY FEES. Prohibits a fee from being charged for filing with the registry a notice of intent to claim paternity of a child or a denial of a registrant's paternity. Authorizes the Texas Department of Health (TDH), except as provided by this section, to charge a fee for processing a search of the paternity registry and for furnishing a certificate under Section 160.260, Family Code. Provides that the DPRS and the Title IV-D agency are not required to pay a fee under Subsection (b).

Sec. 160.263. ADMISSIBILITY OF INFORMATION MAINTAINED BY REGISTRY. Provides that information maintained by the paternity registry is admissible in a proceeding in a court or administrative tribunal of this state for any purpose.

SECTION 6. Amends Section 161.002, Family Code, by amending Subsection (b) and by adding Subsection (c), to authorize the rights of an alleged biological father to be terminated if, among one of two options, the father has not registered with the paternity registry under Chapter 160D, and after the exercise of due diligence, his identity and location are unknown; or his identity is known but he cannot be located. Provides that the termination of the rights of an alleged biological father under Subsection (b)(2) does not require personal service of citation or citation by publication on the alleged father.

SECTION 7. Amends Section 161.001, Family Code, to authorize a court to order termination of the parent-child relationship if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the parent, among other options and conditions, has had his or her parent-child relationship terminated with respect to another child based on a finding that the parent's conduct was in violation of Paragraph (D) or (E) or substantially equivalent provisions of the law of another state; the parent has constructively abandoned the child who has been in the permanent or temporary managing conservatorship DPRS or an authorized agency, and DPRS or authorized agency has made reasonable efforts to return the

child to the parent, and the parent has not regularly visited and, rather than or, maintained significant contact with the child, or, rather than and, demonstrated an ability, rather than inability, to provide the child with a safe environment; the parent has been adjudicated to be criminally responsible for certain crimes; or the parent has failed to comply with the provisions of a court order that specifically established the actions necessary for the parent to obtain the return of the child who has been in the permanent or temporary managing conservatorship of DPRS as a result of the child's removal from the parent under Chapter 262 for the abuse or neglect of the child. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 8. Amends Chapter 201B, Family Code, by adding Section 201.1085, as follows:

Sec. 201.1085. DISCRETIONARY APPOINTMENT OF MASTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION CASES. Authorizes the presiding judge to appoint a master for a court handling child protection cases if the court needs assistance in order to process the cases in a reasonable time.

SECTION 9. Amends Chapter 262A, Family Code, by adding Section 262.008, as follows:

Sec. 262.008. ABANDONED CHILDREN. Authorizes an authorized representative of DPRS to assume the care, control, and custody of a child who is abandoned without identification or a means for identifying the child; and whose identity cannot be asserted by the exercise of reasonable diligence. Requires DPRS to immediately file a suit to terminate the parent-child relationship of a child under this section. Provides that a child for whom possession is assumed under this section need not be delivered to the court except on the order of the court.

SECTION 10. Amends Section 262.201(c), Family Code, to require the court, if the court finds sufficient evidence to satisfy a person of ordinary prudence and caution that there is a continuing danger to the physical health or safety of the child and for the child to remain in the home is contrary to the welfare of the child, to inform, among other actions, each parent in open court that parental and custodial rights and duties may be subject to restriction or to termination unless the parent or parents are willing and able to provide the child with a safe environment.

SECTION 11. Amends Chapter 263A, Family Code, by adding Section 263.006, as follows:

Sec. 263.006. WARNING TO PARENTS. Requires the court, at the status hearing under Subchapter C and at each permanency hearing under Subchapter D held after the court has rendered a temporary order appointing DPRS as temporary managing conservator, to inform each parent in open court that parental and custodial rights and duties may be subject to restriction or to termination unless the parent or parents are willing and able to provide the child with a safe environment.

SECTION 12. Amends Chapter 263B, Family Code, by adding Section 263.1015, as follows:

Sec. 263.1015. SERVICE PLAN NOT REQUIRED. Provides that a service plan is not required under this subchapter in a suit brought by DPRS for the termination of the parent-child relationship for a child who has been abandoned without identification and whose identity cannot be determined.

SECTION 13. Amends Section 263.201, Family Code, to require the court, by the 60th day after the date the court renders a temporary order appointing DPRS as temporary managing conservator of a child, rather than after the date of full adversary hearing under Chapter 262, to hold a status hearing to review the child's status and the permanency plan developed for the child.

SECTION 14. Amends the heading to Chapter 263D, Family Code, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. New heading: PERMANENCY HEARINGS

SECTION 15. Amends Sections 263.301(a) and (b), Family Code, to require notice of a permanency, rather than a review, hearing to be given as provided by certain rules of civil procedure

to all persons entitled to notice of the hearing. Provides that certain persons are entitled to at least 10 days notice of a permanency hearing, rather than a hearing to review a child's placement, and are entitled to present evidence and be heard at the hearing, including an attorney ad litem and a volunteer advocate appointed for the child under Chapter 107. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 16. Amends Section 263.302, Family Code, to require the child to attend each permanency hearing unless the court specifically excuses the child's attendance. Provides that failure by the child to attend a hearing does not affect the validity of an order rendered at the hearing. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 17. Amends Chapter 263D, Family Code, by adding Section 263.3025, as follows:

Sec. 263.3025. PERMANENCY PLAN. Requires DPRS to prepare a permanency plan for a child for whom DPRS has been appointed temporary managing conservator. Requires DPRS to give a copy of the plan to each person entitled to notice under Section 263.301(b) by the 10th day before the date of the child's first permanency hearing. Requires the permanency plan to contain the information required to be included in a permanency progress report under Section 263.303. Requires DPRS to modify the permanency plan for a child as required by the circumstances and needs of the child.

SECTION 18. Amends Section 263.303, Family Code, as follows:

Sec. 263.303. New heading: PERMANENCY PROGRESS REPORT. Requires DPRS or other authorized agency, by the 10th day before the date for each permanency hearing other than the first permanency hearing, to file with the court and provide to each party, the child's attorney ad litem, and the child's volunteer advocate a permanency report, rather than a status report, unless the court orders a different period providing the report. Sets forth the required recommendation options of the permanency report. Deletes certain provisions relating to the required recommendation options of the status report. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 19. Amends Section 263.304, Family Code, as follows:

Sec. 263.304. New heading: INITIAL PERMANENCY HEARING; TIME. Requires the court, by the 180th day after the date the court renders a temporary order appointing DPRS as temporary managing conservator of a child, rather than after the date of the conclusion of the full adversary hearing, to hold a permanency hearing to review the status of, and permanency plan for, the child to ensure that a final order consistent with that permanency plan is rendered before the date for dismissal of the suit under this chapter. Deletes a provision relating to initial review hearing.

SECTION 20. Amends Section 263.305, Family Code, as follows:

Sec. 263.305. New heading: SUBSEQUENT PERMANENCY HEARINGS. Requires a subsequent permanency hearing, rather than a subsequent review hearing, to be held by the 120th day after the date of the last permanency hearing in the suit. Authorizes the court to order more frequent hearings for good cause shown or on the court's own motion. Deletes the provisions relating to subsequent review hearings.

SECTION 21. Amends Section 263.306, Family Code, as follows:

Sec. 263.306. New heading: PERMANENCY HEARINGS: PROCEDURE. Sets forth the procedures the court is required to follow at each permanency hearing. Deletes the provisions relating to determinations the court is required to make at each review hearing. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 22. Amends Chapter 263, Family Code, by adding Subchapter E, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER E. FINAL ORDER FOR CHILD UNDER DEPARTMENT CARE

Sec. 263.401. DISMISSAL AFTER ONE YEAR; EXTENSION. Requires the court, unless the court has rendered a final order or granted an extension under Subsection (b), on the first Monday after the first anniversary of the date the court rendered a temporary order appointing DPRS as temporary managing conservator, to dismiss the suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed by DPRS that requires termination of the parent-child relationship or requires that DPRS be named conservator of the child. Authorizes the court to extend the court's jurisdiction of the suit under certain circumstances for a period stated in the extension order, but not longer than 180 days after the time described by this section. Sets forth the required contents of the extension. Requires the court, if the court grants an extension, to render a final order or dismiss the suit on or before the date specified in the extension order and may not grant an additional extension. Sets forth what is a final order under this section.

Sec. 263.402. RETURN OF CHILD TO PARENT OR PLACEMENT WITH RELATIVE. Authorizes the court, notwithstanding Section 263.401, to retain jurisdiction and not dismiss the suit or render a final order as required by that section under certain circumstances.

Sec. 263.403. FINAL ORDER APPOINTING DEPARTMENT AS MANAGING CONSERVATOR WITHOUT TERMINATING PARENTAL RIGHTS. Authorizes the court to render a final order appointing DPRS as managing conservator of the child without terminating the rights of the parent of the child under certain circumstances. Requires the court to take certain factors into consideration in determining whether DPRS should be appointed as managing conservator of the child without terminating the rights of a parent of the child.

SECTION 23. Amends Chapter 263, Family Code, by adding Subchapter F, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER F. PLACEMENT REVIEW HEARINGS

Sec. 263.501. PLACEMENT REVIEW AFTER FINAL ORDER. Requires the court, if DPRS has been named as a child's managing conservator in a final order that does not include termination of parental rights, to conduct a placement review hearing at least once every six months until the child becomes an adult. Requires the court, if DPRS has been named as a child's managing conservator in a final order that terminates a parent's parental rights, to conduct a placement review hearing at least once every six months until the date the child is adopted or the child becomes an adult. Requires notice of a placement review hearing to be given as provided by Rule 21A, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, to each person entitled to notice of the hearing. Sets forth the entities and persons who are entitled to not less than 10 days' notice of a placement review hearing. Authorizes the court to dispense with the requirement that the child attend a placement review hearing.

Sec. 263.502. PLACEMENT REVIEW REPORT. Requires DPRS or other authorized agency, by the 10th day before the date set for a placement review hearing, to file a placement review report with the court and provide a copy to each person entitled to notice under Section 263.501(d). Authorizes the court to order a different time for filing the placement review report or to order that a report is not required for a specific hearing. Sets forth the required contents of the placement review report.

Sec. 263.503. PLACEMENT REVIEW HEARINGS; PROCEDURE. Sets forth the issues the court is required to determine at each placement review hearing.

SECTION 24. Amends Section 264.009, Family Code, to require DPRS, in any action under this code, rather than title, to be represented in court by either the county attorney of the county where the action is brought, rather than the prosecuting attorney who represents the state in criminal cases in the district or county court, unless the district attorney or criminal district attorney elects to provide representation; or, under certain circumstances, an attorney employed by DPRS or who has contracted with DPRS under Subsection (c) to provide representation. Requires DPRS, in a county with a population of 2,800,000 or more, to be represented by, among others, an attorney, if the case is one in which a conflict of interest or special circumstances exists, employed by DPRS or who has

contracted with DPRS under Subsection (c) to provide representation. Deletes reference to representation by the attorney general. Authorizes the DPRS to contract with certain attorneys to provide reimbursement from any available state or federal fund of the costs of representing DPRS in an action under this code.

SECTION 25. Amends Chapter 264B, Family Code, by adding Sections 264.110 and 264.111, as follows:

Sec. 264.110. ADOPTION AND SUBSTITUTE INFORMATION. Requires DPRS to maintain in the DPRS's central database information concerning children placed in the DPRS's custody, including certain information on each formal adoption of a child in this state; and certain information on each placement of a child in foster care. Requires DPRS to compile certain information relating to adoptions and adoption services. Requires DPRS to make the information maintained under this section, other than information that is required by law to be confidential, available to the public by computer.

Sec. 264.111. REPORT ON CHILDREN IN SUBSTITUTE CARE. Requires DPRS to report the status for children in substitute care to the Board of Protective and Regulatory Services at least once every 12 months. Requires the report to analyze the length of time the children have been in substitute care and the barriers to placing the children for adoption or returning the children to the children's parents.

SECTION 26. Amends Chapter 264C, Family Code, by adding Sections 264.206 and 264.207, as follows:

Sec. 264.206. SEARCH FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS. Requires DPRS to begin its efforts to locate qualified persons to adopt a child at the time DPRS permanency plan for the child becomes the termination of the parent-child relationship.

Sec. 264.207. DEPARTMENT PLANNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY. Requires DPRS to adopt policies that provide for the improvement DPRS's services for children and families. Requires the policies to be designed to increase the accountability of DPRS to individuals who receive services and to the public; and to assure consistency of services provided by the department in the different regions of the state. Requires DPRS to establish time frames for the initial screening of families seeking to adopt children; provide for the evaluation of the effectiveness of DPRS's management-level employees in expeditiously making permanent placements of the children; establish comprehensive assessment service centers in various locations in the state to determine the needs of children and families served by DPRS; and emphasize and centralize the monitoring and promoting of the permanent placement of children receiving DPRS services.

SECTION 27. Amends Section 264.603(a), Family Code, to require a certain contract to require measurable goals and objectives for expanding local volunteer child advocate programs to areas of the state in which those programs do not exist.

SECTION 28. Amends Chapter 72C, Government Code, by adding Section 72.028, as follows:

Sec. 72.028. REPORT ON JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY IN CERTAIN FAMILY LAW CASES. Requires the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System (office) to prepare and submit a report on judicial efficiency in cases brought by DPRS under Title 5, Family Code, to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chief justice of the supreme court by December 1 of each year. Requires the report to cover a one-year period beginning September 1 of the preceding year and to include certain information about cases brought by DPRS under Title 5, Family Code. Requires DPRS to provide all necessary information in the DPRS's possession that is required by the office in the preparation of the report.

SECTION 29. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 30. (a) Makes application of changes made to Section 107.006, Family Code, by this Act, prospective.

(b) Provides that the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System to submit the first report under Section 72.028, Government Code, as added by this Act, by December 1, 1999.

(c) Makes application of changes made to Section 161.001, Family Code, by this Act, prospective.

SECTION 31. (a) Provides that changes made by amending Sections 262.201(c), 263D, 263.201, 263.301(a) and (b), 263.302-306, and by adding Sections 263.006, 263.1015, 263.3025, 263E, and 263F, by this Act, are effective on January 1, 1998.

(b) Provides that changes made by amending Sections 262.201(c), 263D, 263.201, 263.301(a) and (b), 263.302-306, and by adding Sections 263.006, 263.1015, 263.3025, 263E, and 263F, by this Act, retroactive.

(c) Requires the court, if DPRS has been appointed temporary managing conservator of a child before the effective date of this Act, to establish a date for dismissal of the suit by the second anniversary of the date of the next hearing conducted under Chapter 263, Family Code, unless the court has rendered a final order before the dismissal date.

SECTION 32. Emergency clause.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

SECTION 1.

Amends Section 102.009(a), Family Code, relating to citation of service.

SECTION 2.

Amends Section 102.011(b), Family Code, relating to a court's personal jurisdiction. Omits proposed changes to Section 151.002, Family Code, relating to termination of parental rights.

SECTION 3.

Amends Section 107.006, Family Code, formerly designated in SECTION 1. Omits proposed changes to Section 151.003(a), Family Code, relating to duties of a parent of a child.

SECTION 4.

Amends Section 159.201, Family Code, relating to the basis for jurisdiction over nonresidents.

SECTION 5.

Amends Chapter 160, Family Code, relating to paternity registry. Omits proposed changes to Section 161.002, Family Code, relating to admission of paternity by the father.

SECTION 6.

Amends Section 161.002, Family Code, relating to termination of rights of an alleged biological father.

SECTION 7.

Amends Section 161.001, Family Code, formerly designated in SECTION 4. Omits proposed changes to Chapter 263A, Family Code, adding Sections 263.006-007 relating to abandoned

children and abuse, drug or alcohol abuse, and failure to meet past service plans, respectively.

SECTION 8.

Amends Chapter 201B, Family Code, relating discretionary appointment of a master for child protection cases.

SECTION 9.

Amends Chapter 262A, Family Code, formerly designated in SECTION 6.

SECTION 10.

Amends Chapter 262.201(c), Family Code, relating to temporary orders for protection of a child.

SECTION 11.

Amends Chapter 263A, Family Code, formerly designated in SECTION 7. Adds Section 263.006, Family Code, relating to warning to a parent, rather than abandoned children.

SECTION 12.

Amends Chapter 263B, Family Code, relating to service plans relating to a child.

SECTIONS 13-21.

Amends Sections 263.201, 263.301, 263.302, 263.3025, 263.303-306, Family Code, and the heading to Chapter 263D, Family Code, formerly designated in SECTIONS 8-13. Omits proposed Sections 263.303(d) and 263.3055, Family Code, relating to permanency hearings, formerly designated in SECTION 12. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 22.

Amends Chapter 263E, Family Code, relating to a final order for a child under DPRS care.

SECTION 23.

Amends Chapter 263F, Family Code, relating to placement review hearings.

SECTIONS 25-29.

Amends Sections 264.110, 264.206-207, 264.603, Family Code and Chapter 72C, Government Code, formerly designated in SECTIONS 14-17. Revises proposed changes to Section 264.110, Family Code, to relate to adoption and substitute care information, rather than adoption and foster-care information. Revises proposed Section 264.111, Family Code, relating to a report on children in substitute care, rather than to a status review of children in foster care. Revises proposed Section 264.206, Family Code, relating to search for adoptive parents. Revises proposed Section 72.028, Government Care, to omit text requiring a report on judicial efficiency in certain family law cases to include information regarding the level of judicial commitment to case management, timely and effective resolution of the cases, and the manner in which children's interests are represented in the cases. Makes conforming changes.

SECTIONS 29-32.

Sets forth effective date, session law, and emergency clause, formerly designated in SECTIONS 18-20. Makes conforming changes in regard to the session law.