

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 3403  
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Jurisprudence  
5/3/2001  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Child custody and visitation rights can be contentious issues between divorced parents. According to the National Legal Research Group, it is estimated that the access of more than six million children to a noncustodial parent was interfered with by the custodial parent in 1993. Visitation centers and visitation exchange centers can help facilitate the terms of court ordered child custody, assure a child's access to both parents and their extended families, and provide a neutral ground where parents can exchange custody of children without subjecting the child to hostilities between the parents. H.B. 3403 authorizes a county to establish visitation centers and visitation exchange facilities to better facilitate appropriate parental access to children who are the subject of court orders resulting from divorce.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 153A, Family Code, by adding Section 153.014, as follows:

Sec. 153.014. VISITATION CENTERS AND VISITATION EXCHANGE FACILITIES.  
Authorizes a county to establish a visitation center or a visitation exchange facility for the purpose of facilitating the terms of a court order providing for the possession of or access to a child.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.