

By: Jones of Harris

H.B. No. 1695

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the enforcement of an order to pay child support by contempt.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 157.162, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) The court may not find a respondent in contempt of court for failure to pay child support if the respondent appears at the hearing with:

(1) a copy of the payment record or other evidence satisfactory to the court showing that the respondent is current in the payment of child support as ordered by the court; and

(2) evidence satisfactory to the court showing that the respondent's failure to make timely payments was due to an error made by a third party or other circumstances outside the respondent's control.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a hearing to enforce an order in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship that commences on or after the effective date of this Act. A hearing that commences before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the hearing commenced, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.