

By: Middleton

S.B. No. 2548

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the procedures for the removal of certain children in the managing conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

SECTION 1. Section 263.403, Family Code, is amended by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (c-1), (c-2), and (c-3) to read as follows:

(c) If before the dismissal of the suit or the commencement of the trial on the merits a child placed with a parent under this section must be moved from that home and ~~[by the department or]~~ the court renders a temporary order terminating the monitored return under Subsection (a)(2)(A) or the transition order issued under Subsection (a)(2)(B), the court shall~~[, at the time of the move or order,~~ schedule a new date for dismissal of the suit at the time the order is rendered. The new dismissal date may not be later than the original, or extended, dismissal date established under Section 263.401, or the 30th ~~[180th]~~ day after the date ~~the child is moved or~~ the order is rendered under this subsection, whichever date is later.

(c-1) Except as provided by Subsection (c-2), the department may not move a child who has been placed in the home of a parent under this section from that home without a hearing.

(c-2) An authorized representative of the department, a law

1 enforcement officer, or a juvenile probation officer may take
2 possession of the child and move the child from the home in an
3 emergency in accordance with Section 262.104. Before moving a child
4 from the home under this subsection, the department, a law
5 enforcement officer, or a juvenile probation officer shall to the
6 extent practicable obtain consent to the move from the child's
7 attorney ad litem and guardian ad litem. If a child is moved from
8 the home in an emergency as authorized by this subsection, the court
9 shall, after proper notice, hold a hearing on the move. The hearing
10 must be held before the end of the third day after the day the child
11 is moved from the home.

12 (c-3) The court may order a child to be moved from the home
13 or render any other order under Subsection (c) only if, after a
14 hearing, the court finds by a preponderance of evidence that:

15 (1) there is an immediate danger to the physical
16 health or safety of the child or the child has been a victim of
17 neglect or sexual abuse;

18 (2) continuation in the home would be contrary to the
19 child's welfare; and

20 (3) reasonable efforts, consistent with the
21 circumstances and providing for the safety of the child, were made
22 to prevent or eliminate the need to move the child.

23 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
24 a suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed on or after
25 the effective date of this Act. A suit affecting the parent-child
26 relationship filed before the effective date of this Act is
27 governed by the law in effect on the date the suit was filed, and the

1 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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