

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 151  
By: Jackson  
Jurisprudence  
8/15/2003  
Enrolled

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Currently, Texas law contains no provisions regarding the adoption of a child from a foreign country by a citizen of the United States. Therefore, the procedure for such an adoption is determined by each individual county, and there are concerns of conflicting procedures among counties. Texas is one of 17 states with no statutes addressing foreign adoptions. S.B. 151 provides a unified procedure throughout the state relating to international adoptions and birth certificates for such adoptees.

### **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 Subchapter A, Chapter 162, Family Code, by adding Section 162.023, as follows:

Sec. 162.023. ADOPTION ORDER FROM FOREIGN COUNTRY. (a) Requires the courts of this state, except as otherwise provided by federal law, to recognize and enforce an adoption order rendered to a resident of this state by a foreign country as if it were rendered by a court in this state, unless the adoption law or process of the foreign country violates the fundamental principles of human rights or the laws or public policy of this state.

(b) Authorizes a person who adopts a child in a foreign country to register the order in this state and to combine the petition for registration with a petition for a name change. Requires the court to order the state registrar to take certain actions upon finding that the foreign adoption order meets the requirements of Subsection (a).

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2003.