

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 151
By: Jackson
Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND 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 seventeen states with no statutes addressing foreign adoptions. As proposed, S.B.151 provides a unified procedure throughout the state relating to international adoptions and birth certificates for such adoptees.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter A, Chapter 162, Family Code, by adding Section 162.023, which requires the courts of this state to recognize and enforce an adoption order rendered to a U.S. citizen under foreign law as if it were rendered by a court in this state, except as otherwise provided by federal law. (b) This bill further 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. This Act takes effect September1, 2003.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003.