

By: West

H.B. No. 556

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain requirements in connection with the expenditure of child support payments.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 154, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 154.0041 to read as follows:

Sec. 154.0041. ACCOUNTING OF CHILD SUPPORT EXPENDITURES.

(a) On the request of a party to a child support order and for good cause shown, the court may order an accounting of the expenditure of child support payments if the total child support obligation exceeds \$750 per month. The accounting required by the court order may not include a duty to account for money deposited in an account before the 12 months preceding the date of the order.

(b) If, after a hearing, the court finds that child support payments are not being used for the benefit of the child, the court may order the obligee to open a child support account with a financial institution solely for the receipt and use of child support payments.

SECTION 2. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

(b) If the Title IV-D agency implements an electronic benefits transfer system under Section 234.011, Family Code, a Title IV-D case in which an electronic benefits transfer is used is exempt from Section 154.0041, Family Code, as added by this Act.