

By: Eiland

H.B. No. 1461

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to mandatory paternity testing before a court may render
3 an order for child support.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 154, Family Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 154.015 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 154.015. PATERNITY TEST REQUIRED. (a) A court may not
8 render an order requiring the payment of child support, unless the
9 court finds that:

10 (1) the parties have completed a genetic test to
11 determine parentage that complies with the requirements of
12 Subchapter F, Chapter 160; and

13 (2) based on the genetic test, the man named as the
14 father in the suit affecting the parent-child relationship is
15 rebuttably identified as the father of the child in accordance with
16 Section 160.505(a).

17 (b) If the parties to a suit affecting the parent-child
18 relationship in which child support is requested have not completed
19 a genetic test that complies with the requirements of Subchapter F,
20 Chapter 160, the court shall order the child, the child's mother,
21 and the alleged father to submit to genetic testing not later than
22 the 30th day after the date the order requiring genetic testing is
23 rendered.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and

1 applies to a suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed on
2 or after that date. A suit affecting the parent-child relationship
3 filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law
4 in effect on the date the suit was filed, and the former law is
5 continued in effect for that purpose.