

By: Farrar

H.B. No. 2856

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain fees collected by a domestic relations office.

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

SECTION 1. Section 203.005, Family Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(a) The administering entity may authorize a domestic relations office to assess and collect:

(1) an initial operations fee not to exceed \$15 to be paid to the domestic relations office on the filing of a suit;

(2) in a county that has a child support enforcement cooperative agreement with the Title IV-D agency, an initial child support service fee not to exceed \$36 to be paid to the domestic relations office on the filing of a suit;

(3) a reasonable application fee to be paid by an applicant requesting services from the office;

(4) a reasonable attorney's fee and court costs incurred or ordered by the court;

(5) a monthly service fee not to exceed \$3 to be paid annually in advance by a managing conservator and possessory conservator for whom the domestic relations office provides services, including non-Title IV-D child support services provided under a formal agreement between a domestic relations office and the Title IV-D agency;

1 (6) community supervision fees as provided by Chapter
2 157 if community supervision officers are employed by the domestic
3 relations office; and

4 (7) a reasonable fee for preparation of a
5 court-ordered social study.

6 (e) A fee authorized by this section for providing child
7 support services is part of the child support obligation and may be
8 enforced against both an obligor and obligee by any method
9 available for the enforcement of child support, including contempt.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.