

1-1 By: Farrar (Senate Sponsor - Gallegos) H.B. No. 2856  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 19, 2003;  
1-3 May 20, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Jurisprudence; May 24, 2003, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 24, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to certain fees collected by a domestic relations office.

1-9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-10 SECTION 1. Section 203.005, Family Code, is amended by  
1-11 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (e) to read as  
1-12 follows:

1-13 (a) The administering entity may authorize a domestic  
1-14 relations office to assess and collect:

1-15 (1) an initial operations fee not to exceed \$15 to be  
1-16 paid to the domestic relations office on the filing of a suit;

1-17 (2) in a county that has a child support enforcement  
1-18 cooperative agreement with the Title IV-D agency, an initial child  
1-19 support service fee not to exceed \$36 to be paid to the domestic  
1-20 relations office on the filing of a suit;

1-21 (3) a reasonable application fee to be paid by an  
1-22 applicant requesting services from the office;

1-23 (4) a reasonable attorney's fee and court costs  
1-24 incurred or ordered by the court;

1-25 (5) a monthly service fee not to exceed \$3 to be paid  
1-26 annually in advance by a managing conservator and possessory  
1-27 conservator for whom the domestic relations office provides child  
1-28 support services;

1-29 (6) community supervision fees as provided by Chapter  
1-30 157 if community supervision officers are employed by the domestic  
1-31 relations office; and

1-32 (7) a reasonable fee for preparation of a  
1-33 court-ordered social study.

1-34 (e) A fee authorized by this section for providing child  
1-35 support services is part of the child support obligation and may be  
1-36 enforced against both an obligor and obligee by any method  
1-37 available for the enforcement of child support, including contempt.

1-38 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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