

1-1 By: Farrar (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 270  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 11, 2005;  
1-3 May 13, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Jurisprudence; May 19, 2005, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 19, 2005, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to court-ordered access to a child by the child's sibling.

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

1-10 SECTION 1. Chapter 102, Family Code, is amended by adding  
1-11 Section 102.0045 to read as follows:

1-12 Sec. 102.0045. STANDING FOR SIBLING. (a) The sibling of a  
1-13 child may file an original suit requesting access to the child as  
1-14 provided by Section 153.551 if the sibling is at least 18 years of  
1-15 age.

1-16 (b) Access to a child by a sibling of the child is governed  
1-17 by the standards established by Subchapter J, Chapter 153.

1-18 SECTION 2. Chapter 153, Family Code, is amended by adding  
1-19 Subchapter J to read as follows:

1-20 SUBCHAPTER J. RIGHTS OF SIBLINGS

1-21 Sec. 153.551. SUIT FOR ACCESS. (a) The sibling of a child  
1-22 who is separated from the child because of an action taken by the  
1-23 Department of Family and Protective Services may request access to  
1-24 the child by filing:

1-25 (1) an original suit; or

1-26 (2) a suit for modification as provided by Chapter  
1-27 156.

1-28 (b) The sibling of a child may request access to the child in  
1-29 a suit filed for the sole purpose of requesting the relief, without  
1-30 regard to whether the appointment of a managing conservator is an  
1-31 issue in the suit.

1-32 Sec. 153.552. ACCESS TO SIBLING. The court shall order  
1-33 reasonable access to a child by the child's sibling if the court  
1-34 finds that access is in the best interest of the child.

1-35 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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