

Amend **CSSB 1204** by adding new appropriately numbered SECTIONS to read as follows:

SECTION _____. Section 201.007(a), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as limited by an order of referral, an associate judge may:

- (1) conduct a hearing;
- (2) hear evidence;
- (3) compel production of relevant evidence;
- (4) rule on the admissibility of evidence;
- (5) issue a summons for the appearance of witnesses;
- (6) examine a witness;
- (7) swear a witness for a hearing;
- (8) make findings of fact on evidence;
- (9) formulate conclusions of law;
- (10) recommend an order to be rendered in a case;
- (11) regulate all proceedings in a hearing before the associate judge;

(12) order the attachment of a witness or party who fails to obey a subpoena;

(13) order the detention of a witness or party found guilty of contempt, pending approval by the referring court as provided by Section 201.013;

(14) without prejudice to the right of appeal under Section 201.015, render and sign:

(A) a final order agreed to in writing as to both form and substance by all parties;

(B) a final default order; or

(C) a temporary order; and

(15) take action as necessary and proper for the efficient performance of the associate judge's duties.

SECTION _____. The heading to Section 201.009, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 201.009. COURT REPORTER; RECORD.

SECTION _____. Sections 201.009(a) and (c), Family Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A court reporter may be provided during a hearing held

by an associate judge appointed under this chapter. A court reporter is required to be provided when the associate judge presides over a jury trial or a contested final termination hearing.

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (a), in the absence of a court reporter or on agreement of the parties, the [The] record may be preserved [~~in the absence of a court reporter~~] by any [~~other~~] means approved by the associate judge.