

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 2068
By: Hartnett
Judiciary
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Upon request of the parties, issues needing trial in family law cases may be referred under current law to a special judge meeting certain requirements. The purpose of this bill is to make this referral mandatory when agreed on by the parties.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

The bill amends Section 151.001 of the Civil Practice and Remedies Code by changing the word "may" to "shall" with the intent that a judge must order referral of any or all issues in a family law case as agreed upon by the parties.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2007.