

1-1 By: Bolton (Senate Sponsor - Harris) H.B. No. 2940  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 10, 2007;  
1-3 May 14, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Jurisprudence; May 19, 2007, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 19, 2007, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to the authority of an associate judge in certain family  
1-9 law proceedings.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 201.007(a), Family Code, is amended to  
1-12 read as follows:

1-13 (a) Except as limited by an order of referral, an associate  
1-14 judge may:

- 1-15 (1) conduct a hearing;
- 1-16 (2) hear evidence;
- 1-17 (3) compel production of relevant evidence;
- 1-18 (4) rule on the admissibility of evidence;
- 1-19 (5) issue a summons for the appearance of witnesses;
- 1-20 (6) examine a witness;
- 1-21 (7) swear a witness for a hearing;
- 1-22 (8) make findings of fact on evidence;
- 1-23 (9) formulate conclusions of law;
- 1-24 (10) recommend an order to be rendered in a case;
- 1-25 (11) regulate all proceedings in a hearing before the

1-26 associate judge;

- 1-27 (12) order the attachment of a witness or party who
- 1-28 fails to obey a subpoena;

- 1-29 (13) order the detention of a witness or party found
- 1-30 guilty of contempt, pending approval by the referring court as
- 1-31 provided by Section 201.013;

- 1-32 (14) without prejudice to the right of appeal under
- 1-33 Section 201.015, render and sign:

- 1-34 (A) a final order agreed to in writing as to both
- 1-35 form and substance by all parties;

- 1-36 (B) a final default order; or

- 1-37 (C) a temporary order; and

- 1-38 (15) take action as necessary and proper for the
- 1-39 efficient performance of the associate judge's duties.

1-40 SECTION 2. The heading to Section 201.009, Family Code, is  
1-41 amended to read as follows:

1-42 Sec. 201.009. COURT REPORTER; RECORD.

1-43 SECTION 3. Sections 201.009(a) and (c), Family Code, are  
1-44 amended to read as follows:

1-45 (a) A court reporter may be provided during a hearing held  
1-46 by an associate judge appointed under this chapter. A court  
1-47 reporter is required to be provided when the associate judge  
1-48 presides over a jury trial or a contested final termination  
1-49 hearing.

1-50 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (a), in the absence of  
1-51 a court reporter or on agreement of the parties, the [The] record  
1-52 may be preserved [in the absence of a court reporter] by any [other]  
1-53 means approved by the associate judge.

1-54 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply to a  
1-55 suit affecting the parent-child relationship referred to an  
1-56 associate judge that is pending before a trial court on or filed on  
1-57 or after the effective date of this Act.

1-58 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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