

AN ACT

relating to the adoption of a child by a person serving in the military.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 162, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 162.0025 to read as follows:

Sec. 162.0025. ADOPTION SOUGHT BY MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER.

In a suit for adoption, the fact that a petitioner is a member of the armed forces of the United States, a member of the Texas National Guard or the National Guard of another state, or a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States may not be considered by the court, or any person performing a social study or home screening, as a negative factor in determining whether the adoption is in the best interest of the child or whether the petitioner would be a suitable parent.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to a petition for adoption pending in a trial court on the effective date of this Act or filed on or after that date.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3537 was passed by the House on May 8, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3537 was passed by the Senate on May 21, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor