

By: Garcia

H.B. No. 3537

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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

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

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

7 Sec. 162.0025. ADOPTION SOUGHT BY MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER.

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

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

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