

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 973

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to testimony by certain children at a hearing on an
3 application for a protective order.

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

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 84, Family Code, is amended by adding
6 Section 84.007 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 84.007. TESTIMONY BY CHILD. A child who is at least
8 eight years of age and who is a member of the family or household for
9 which protection is sought or on whose behalf the application for a
10 protective order is filed may testify at a hearing on the
11 application for a protective order.

12 SECTION 2. Section 84.007, Family Code, as added by this
13 Act, applies to a hearing on an application for a protective order
14 held on or after the effective date of this Act, regardless of the
15 date the application is filed.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.