

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1440

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to orders and judgments rendered by associate judges in  
3 child support and child protection cases.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 201.1041(a), Family Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (a) If a request for a de novo hearing before the referring  
8 court is not timely filed or the right to a de novo hearing before  
9 the referring court is waived, the proposed order or judgment of the  
10 associate judge, other than a proposed order or judgment providing  
11 for enforcement by contempt or the immediate incarceration of a  
12 party, shall become the order or judgment of the referring court by  
13 operation of law without the signature of the judge of the referring  
14 court or ratification by the referring court.

15 SECTION 2. Section 201.2041(a), Family Code, is amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (a) If a request for a de novo hearing before the referring  
18 court is not timely filed or the right to a de novo hearing before  
19 the referring court is waived, the proposed order or judgment of the  
20 associate judge becomes the order or judgment of the referring  
21 court by operation of law without the signature of the judge of the  
22 referring court or ratification by the referring court.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.