

AN ACT

relating to the appointment of a parenting coordinator or parenting facilitator in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship.

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

SECTION 1. Section 153.609(d), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) If due to hardship the parties are unable to pay the fees of a parenting coordinator, and a domestic relations office or a comparable county agency [~~public employee~~] is not available under Subsection (c), the court, if feasible, may appoint a person who meets the minimum qualifications prescribed by Section 153.610, including an employee of the court, to act as a parenting coordinator on a volunteer basis and without compensation.

SECTION 2. Section 153.6091, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 153.6091. COMPENSATION OF PARENTING FACILITATOR. Section 153.609 applies to [~~the compensation of~~] a parenting facilitator in the same manner as provided for [~~the compensation of~~] a parenting coordinator, except that a person appointed in accordance with Section 153.609(d) to act as a parenting facilitator must meet the minimum qualifications prescribed by Section 153.6101.

SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies to a suit affecting the parent-child relationship that is pending in a

1 trial court on the effective date of this Act or that is filed on or  
2 after the effective date of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 149 was passed by the House on March 30, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 149 was passed by the Senate on May 24, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor