

AN ACT

relating to an exception to the residency requirements for filing a suit for dissolution of a marriage in this state for certain spouses of military personnel.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 6.303 and 6.304, Family Code, are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 6.303. ABSENCE ON PUBLIC SERVICE. Time spent by a Texas domiciliary outside this state or outside the county of residence of the domiciliary while in the service of the armed forces or other service of the United States or of this state, or while accompanying the domiciliary's spouse in the spouse's service of the armed forces or other service of the United States or of this state, is considered residence in this state and in that county.

Sec. 6.304. ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL NOT PREVIOUSLY RESIDENTS. A person not previously a resident of this state who is serving in the armed forces of the United States and has been stationed at one or more military installations in this state for at least the last six months and at a military installation in a county of this state for at least the last 90 days, or who is accompanying the person's spouse during the spouse's military service in those locations and for those periods, is considered to be a Texas domiciliary and a resident of that county for those periods for the purpose of filing suit for dissolution of a marriage.

1           SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
2 to a suit for dissolution of a marriage filed on or after the  
3 effective date of this Act. A suit filed before that date is  
4 governed by the law in effect on the date the suit was filed, and the  
5 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1159 passed the Senate on April 28, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1159 passed the House on May 23, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, one present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor