

By: Martinez Fischer

H.B. No. 3717

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to court-ordered access to a child by the child's sibling.

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

SECTION 1. Section 153.551(a), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The sibling of a child who is separated from the child ~~[because of an action taken by the Department of Family and Protective Services]~~ may request access to the child by filing:

(1) an original suit; or

(2) a suit for modification as provided by Chapter 156.

SECTION 2. Section 156.002(c), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The sibling of a child who is separated from the child ~~[because of the actions of the Department of Family and Protective Services]~~ may file a suit for modification requesting access to the child in the court with continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

SECTION 3. Section 102.0045, Family Code, is repealed.

SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a suit affecting the parent-child relationship pending in a trial court on or filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.