

By: West
(King of Hemphill)

S.B. No. 1422

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of digitized signatures for pleadings and orders in suits affecting the parent-child relationship.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 101, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 101.0096 to read as follows:

Sec. 101.0096. DIGITIZED SIGNATURE. "Digitized signature" means a graphic image of a handwritten signature having the same legal force and effect for all purposes as a handwritten signature.

SECTION 2. Chapter 102, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 102.014 to read as follows:

Sec. 102.014. USE OF DIGITIZED SIGNATURE. (a) A digitized signature on an original petition under this chapter or any other pleading or order in a suit satisfies the requirements for and imposes the duties of signatories to pleadings, motions, and other papers identified under Rule 13, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

(b) A digitized signature under this section may be applied only by, and must remain under the sole control of, the person whose signature is represented.

SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act to Chapters 101 and 102, Family Code, apply only to a suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed on or after the effective date of this Act. A suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed before that date is governed by the law in effect on the date the

1 suit was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that
2 purpose.

3 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.