

By: Wu

H.B. No. 331

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the sealing of certain court documents filed electronically in a child protection suit.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 262, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 262.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 262.011. SEALING OF COURT RECORDS FILED ELECTRONICALLY. For purposes of determining whether to seal documents in a suit under this subtitle, the court shall consider documents filed through an electronic filing system in the same manner as any other documents filed with the court, including the sealing of an electronically filed document the court finds contains sensitive data as defined by Rule 21c, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to a suit affecting the parent-child relationship that is pending in a trial court on or filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.