

AN ACT

relating to access by a sibling of a child separated from the sibling due to an action by the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

SECTION 1. Section 102.0045, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a-1) The sibling of a child who is separated from the sibling as the result of an action by the Department of Family and Protective Services may file an original suit as provided by Section 153.551 requesting access to the child, regardless of the age of the sibling. A court shall expedite a suit filed under this subsection.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1781 was passed by the House on April 16, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 145, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1781 was passed by the Senate on May 26, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

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

Date

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Governor