

By: Bonnen of Galveston

H.B. No. 1781

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to access of an adopted child to the adopted child's biological siblings in certain circumstances.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 102, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 102.0046 to read as follows:

Sec. 102.0046. STANDING FOR ADOPTIVE PARENT. The parent of an adopted child may file an original suit requesting access to a biological sibling of the child as provided by Section 162.024.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 162, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 162.024 to read as follows:

Sec. 162.024. ACCESS TO SIBLINGS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Biological sibling" means a person with whom a child shares a common birth parent.

(2) "Birth parent" has the meaning assigned by Section 162.402.

(b) The parent of an adopted child may file an original suit to request access on behalf of the child to a biological sibling of the child adopted by another person.

(c) Subsection (b) applies only to the extent that a parent of an adopted child is aware of the existence of a biological sibling adopted by another person and the identity of that person, and does not entitle the parent to confidential information regarding a biological sibling or adoptive parent.

1 (d) The court shall order reasonable access to the
2 biological sibling if the court finds that access is in the best
3 interest of both children.

4 SECTION 3. Section 162.018, Family Code, is amended by
5 adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

6 (c-1) The department, a licensed child-placing agency, or
7 another entity or person placing a child for adoption shall provide
8 the child's adoptive parent with any information known to the
9 department, agency, entity, or person that is not confidential
10 regarding the adoption of a biological sibling, as defined by
11 Section 162.024, of the child by another person.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.