

By: Rodríguez

S.B. No. 813

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of digitized signatures in certain family law proceedings.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 1, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 1.109 to read as follows:

Sec. 1.109. USE OF DIGITIZED SIGNATURE. (a) A digitized signature on an original petition under this title or any other pleading or order in a proceeding under this title 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 2. Title 2, Family Code, is amended by adding Subtitle E to read as follows:

SUBTITLE E. GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 47. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 47.001. USE OF DIGITIZED SIGNATURE. (a) A digitized signature on an original petition or application under this title or any other pleading or order in a proceeding under this title satisfies the requirements for and imposes the duties of signatories to pleadings, motions, and other papers identified

1 under Rule 13, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

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

5 (c) In this section, "digitized signature" has the meaning
6 assigned by Section 101.0096.

7 SECTION 3. Chapter 81, Family Code, is amended by adding
8 Section 81.011 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 81.011. USE OF DIGITIZED SIGNATURE. (a) A digitized
10 signature on an application for a protective order under this title
11 or any other pleading or order in a proceeding under this title
12 satisfies the requirements for and imposes the duties of
13 signatories to pleadings, motions, and other papers identified
14 under Rule 13, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

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

18 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
19 a proceeding that is commenced on or after the effective date of
20 this Act. A proceeding that is commenced before that date is
21 governed by the law in effect on the date the proceeding was
22 commenced, and the former law is continued in effect for that
23 purpose.

24 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.