

By: Cain

H.B. No. 2294

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to jurisdiction in a suit for adoption of a child and the  
3 mandatory transfer of certain suits affecting the parent-child  
4 relationship to the court in which a suit for adoption is pending.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 102.008(b), Family Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (b) The petition must include:

9 (1) a statement that:

10 (A) the court in which the petition is filed has  
11 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction or that no court has continuing  
12 jurisdiction of the suit; or

13 (B) in a suit in which adoption of a child is  
14 requested, the court in which the petition is filed has  
15 jurisdiction of the suit under Section 103.001(b);

16 (2) the name and date of birth of the child, except  
17 that if adoption of a child is requested, the name of the child may  
18 be omitted;

19 (3) the full name of the petitioner and the  
20 petitioner's relationship to the child or the fact that no  
21 relationship exists;

22 (4) the names of the parents, except in a suit in which  
23 adoption is requested;

24 (5) the name of the managing conservator, if any, or

1 the child's custodian, if any, appointed by order of a court of  
2 another state or country;

3 (6) the names of the guardians of the person and estate  
4 of the child, if any;

5 (7) the names of possessory conservators or other  
6 persons, if any, having possession of or access to the child under  
7 an order of the court;

8 (8) the name of an alleged father of the child or a  
9 statement that the identity of the father of the child is unknown;

10 (9) a full description and statement of value of all  
11 property owned or possessed by the child;

12 (10) a statement describing what action the court is  
13 requested to take concerning the child and the statutory grounds on  
14 which the request is made; and

15 (11) any other information required by this title.

16 SECTION 2. Section 103.001(b), Family Code, is amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (b) A suit in which adoption is requested may be filed in the  
19 county where the child resides or in the county where the  
20 petitioners reside, regardless of whether another court has  
21 continuing exclusive jurisdiction under Chapter 155. Except as  
22 provided by Section 155.201, a [A] court that has continuing  
23 exclusive jurisdiction is not required to transfer the suit  
24 affecting the parent-child relationship to the court in which the  
25 adoption suit is filed.

26 SECTION 3. Section 155.201, Family Code, is amended by  
27 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to

1 read as follows:

2 (a) On the filing of a motion showing that a suit for  
3 dissolution of the marriage of the child's parents has been filed in  
4 another court and requesting a transfer to that court, the court  
5 having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of a suit affecting the  
6 parent-child relationship shall, within the time required by  
7 Section 155.204, transfer the proceedings to the court in which the  
8 dissolution of the marriage is pending.

9 (a-1) On the filing of a motion showing that a suit in which  
10 adoption of a child is requested has been filed in another court  
11 located in the county in which the child resides as provided by  
12 Section 103.001 and requesting a transfer to that court, the court  
13 having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of a suit affecting the  
14 parent-child relationship with regard to that child shall, within  
15 the time required by Section 155.204, transfer the proceedings to  
16 the court in which the suit for adoption is pending.

17 (a-2) A [The] motion described by Subsection (a) or (a-1)  
18 must comply with the requirements of Section 155.204(a).

19 SECTION 4. Section 155.204(a), Family Code, is amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (a) A motion to transfer under Section 155.201(a) or (a-1)  
22 may be filed at any time. The motion must contain a certification  
23 that all other parties, including the attorney general, if  
24 applicable, have been informed of the filing of the motion.

25 SECTION 5. Section 102.008(b), Family Code, as amended by  
26 this Act, applies to a petition in a suit affecting the parent-child  
27 relationship filed on or after the effective date of this Act. A

1 petition filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by  
2 the law in effect on the date the petition was filed, and the former  
3 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

4         SECTION 6. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections  
5 103.001, 155.201, and 155.204, Family Code, apply to a motion to  
6 transfer a suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed on or  
7 after the effective date of this Act. A motion to transfer a suit  
8 affecting the parent-child relationship filed before the effective  
9 date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date that  
10 motion was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
11 purpose.

12         SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.