

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 738

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a filing requirement for certain petitions for the termination of the parent-child relationship.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 161, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 161.1011 to read as follows:

Sec. 161.1011. FILING REQUIREMENT FOR PETITION RELATING TO MORE THAN ONE CHILD. (a) Before filing a petition for the termination of the parent-child relationship relating to more than one child, the Department of Family and Protective Services must determine whether any court has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of a child named in the petition. If a court is determined to have continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of a child named in the petition, the department shall file the petition in that court.

(b) If more than one court has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of a child named in the petition, the department shall file the petition in the court that has most recently exercised continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of a child named in the petition.

SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed on or after the effective date of this Act. A suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the suit was filed, and the

1 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.