

By: Creighton
(Bell)

S.B. No. 1016

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the appointment and duties of court investigators for certain courts in guardianship proceedings.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1002.009, Estates Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1002.009. COURT INVESTIGATOR. "Court investigator" means a person appointed by the judge of a statutory probate court under Section 25.0025, Government Code, or a judge under Section 1054.156.

SECTION 2. Section 1054.152, Estates Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1054.152. GENERAL DUTIES. A court investigator shall:

(1) supervise a court visitor program established under Subchapter C if the court for which the investigator is appointed operates that type of program and, in that capacity, shall serve as the chief court visitor;

(2) investigate a complaint received from any person about a guardianship and report to the judge, if necessary; and

(3) perform other duties as assigned by the judge or required by this title.

SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 1054, Estates Code, is amended by adding Section 1054.156 to read as follows:

Sec. 1054.156. APPOINTMENT OF COURT INVESTIGATOR FOR

1 CERTAIN COURTS. (a) The judge of a court as defined by Section
2 1002.008(a)(1) or (2), other than a statutory probate court, may
3 appoint a court investigator if the appointment is authorized by
4 the commissioners court.

5 (b) The commissioners court may authorize additional court
6 investigators for a county if necessary.

7 (c) The commissioners court shall set the salary of a court
8 investigator.

9 (d) The appointment of a court investigator by the judge of
10 a statutory probate court is governed by Section 25.0025,
11 Government Code.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.