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| BILL ANALYSIS |

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| H.B. 369 |
| By: Cain |
| Juvenile Justice & Family Issues |
| Committee Report (Unamended) |

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| **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**  It has been suggested that changes are needed to the law relating to jurisdiction in a suit for the adoption of a child and to the transfer of venue in such suits to provide for proper compliance with certain requirements. H.B. 369 seeks to address this issue by requiring a court with continuing and exclusive jurisdiction of a suit affecting the parent-child relationship with respect to a child for whom adoption is sought to transfer the suit to the county in which the child resides. |
| **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**  It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision. |
| **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**  It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution. |
| **ANALYSIS**  H.B. 369 amends the Family Code to require a petition filed in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship in which adoption of a child is requested to include a statement that the court in which the petition is filed has jurisdiction of the suit. The bill requires a court having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of a suit affecting a parent-child relationship, on the filing of a motion showing that a suit in which adoption of the child is requested has been filed in another court located in the county in which the child resides and requesting a transfer to that court, to transfer the proceedings to the court in which the suit for adoption is pending within the time prescribed by law. The bill authorizes such a motion to be filed at any time and requires the motion to contain a certification that all other parties, including the attorney general, if applicable, have been informed of the filing of the motion. |
| **EFFECTIVE DATE**  September 1, 2019. |