86R25628 JSC-F

By:  Bowers H.B. No. 3121

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 3121:

By:  Dutton C.S.H.B. No. 3121

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an interim study of suits affecting the parent-child relationship in cases involving abuse and other harmful conduct engaged in by a party.

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

SECTION 1.  (a) Pursuant to Section 111.001, Family Code, the standing committees of each house of the legislature having jurisdiction over family law issues shall jointly study and recommend revisions to the provisions of Chapter 153, Family Code, regarding the manner in which the courts of this state, in rendering an order for conservatorship and possession of and access to a child, provide for the safety and best interest of the child. The study must:

(1)  focus on cases in which a party has engaged in:

(A)  family violence or dating violence, as those terms are defined by Chapter 71, Family Code;

(B)  abuse or neglect, as those terms are defined by Section 261.001, Family Code; or

(C)  conduct constituting offenses under Sections 21.02, 22.011, 22.021 and 25.02, Penal Code; and

(2)  include:

(A)  the impact of a history of conduct described by Subdivision (1) on a child; and

(B)  the effects on the courts' considerations of conduct described by Subdivision (1) in the appointment of joint managing conservators, sole managing conservators, and possessory conservators in suits affecting the parent-child relationship.

(b)  Not later than December 1, 2020, the committees described by Subsection (a) shall jointly submit a report of the study's results to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and members of the legislature. The report must include recommendations for changes to the relevant statutes.

SECTION 2.  This Act expires September 1, 2021.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.