

AN ACT

relating to jurisdiction over certain child protection and juvenile matters involving juvenile offenders.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.04, Family Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (h) to read as follows:

(a) This title covers the proceedings in all cases involving the delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision engaged in by a person who was a child within the meaning of this title at the time the person engaged in the conduct, and, except as provided by Subsection (h) or Section 51.0414, the juvenile court has exclusive original jurisdiction over proceedings under this title.

(h) A judge exercising jurisdiction over a child in a suit instituted under Subtitle E, Title 5, may refer any aspect of a suit involving the child that is instituted under this title to the appropriate associate judge appointed under Subchapter C, Chapter 201, serving in the county and exercising jurisdiction over the child under Subtitle E, Title 5, if the associate judge consents to the referral. The scope of an associate judge's authority over a suit referred under this subsection is subject to any limitations placed by the court judge in the order of referral.

SECTION 2. Chapter 51, Family Code, is amended by adding

1 Section 51.0414 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 51.0414. DISCRETIONARY TRANSFER TO COMBINE  
3 PROCEEDINGS. (a) The juvenile court may transfer a child's case,  
4 including transcripts of records and documents for the case, to a  
5 district or statutory county court located in another county that  
6 is exercising jurisdiction over the child in a suit instituted  
7 under Subtitle E, Title 5. A case may only be transferred under  
8 this section with the consent of the judge of the court to which the  
9 case is being transferred.

10 (b) Notwithstanding Section 51.04, a district or statutory  
11 county court to which a case is transferred under this section has  
12 jurisdiction over the transferred case regardless of whether the  
13 court is a designated juvenile court or alternative juvenile court  
14 in the county.

15 (c) If the court exercising jurisdiction over the child  
16 under Subtitle E, Title 5, consents to a transfer under this  
17 section, the juvenile court shall file the transfer order with the  
18 clerk of the transferring court. On receipt and without a hearing  
19 or further order from the juvenile court, the clerk of the  
20 transferring court shall transfer the files, including transcripts  
21 of records and documents for the case as soon as practicable but not  
22 later than the 10th day after the date an order of transfer is  
23 filed.

24 (d) On receipt of the pleadings, documents, and orders from  
25 the transferring court, the clerk of the receiving court shall  
26 notify the judge of the receiving court, all parties, and the clerk  
27 of the transferring court.

1 SECTION 3. Section 201.204, Family Code, is amended by  
2 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

3 (e) An associate judge may hear and render an order in a suit  
4 referred to the associate judge by a juvenile court under Section  
5 51.04, subject to the limitations placed on the associate judge's  
6 authority in the order of referral.

7 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
8 conduct that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act.  
9 Conduct that occurs before the effective date of this Act is  
10 governed by the law in effect on the date the conduct occurred, and  
11 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For the  
12 purposes of this section, conduct occurred before the effective  
13 date of this Act if any element of the conduct occurred before that  
14 date.

15 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1887 passed the Senate on April 11, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 23, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1887 passed the House, with amendment, on May 17, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor