By:  Huffman, et al. S.B. No. 567

(Neave)

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the powers and duties of a domestic relations office.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 203.004(a), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 203.004.  POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) A domestic relations office may:

(1)  collect and disburse child support payments that are ordered by a court to be paid through a domestic relations registry;

(2)  maintain records of payments and disbursements made under Subdivision (1);

(3)  file a suit under this title, including a suit to:

(A)  establish paternity; and

(B)  enforce, clarify or modify a court order for child support or for possession of and access to a child; [~~and~~

[~~(C)  modify or clarify an existing child support order;~~]

(4)  provide an informal forum in which alternative dispute resolution is used to resolve disputes under this code;

(5)  prepare a court-ordered child custody evaluation or adoption evaluation under Chapter 107;

(6)  represent a child as an amicus attorney, an attorney ad litem, or a guardian ad litem in a suit in which:

(A)  termination of the parent-child relationship is sought; or

(B)  conservatorship of or access to a child is contested;

(7)  serve as a friend of the court;

(8)  provide predivorce counseling ordered by a court;

(9)  provide community supervision services under Chapter 157;

(10)  provide information to assist a party in understanding, complying with, or enforcing the party's duties and obligations under this code [~~Subdivision (3)~~];

(11)  provide, directly or through a contract, visitation services, including supervision of court-ordered visitation, visitation exchange, or other similar services;

(12)  issue an administrative writ of withholding under Subchapter F, Chapter 158; and

(13)  provide parenting coordinator services under Chapter 153.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.