

By: White

H.B. No. 576

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the time for rendering a final order in certain suits affecting the parent-child relationship involving the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 263, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 263.4011 to read as follows:

Sec. 263.4011. RENDERING FINAL ORDER; EXTENSION. (a) On timely commencement of the trial on the merits under Section 263.401, the court shall render a final order not later than the 90th day after the date the trial commences.

(b) The 90-day period for rendering a final order under Subsection (a) is not tolled for any recess during the trial.

(c) If the court finds that extraordinary circumstances necessitate extending the 90-day period under Subsection (a), the court may grant one extension of that date for not longer than 30 days. The court shall render a written order:

(1) specifying the grounds on which the extension is granted; and

(2) requiring a final order to be rendered not later than the 30th day after the date the extension is granted.

(d) A party may file a mandamus proceeding if the court fails to render a final order within the time required by this section.

1 SECTION 2. Section 263.4011, Family Code, as added by this
2 Act, applies only to a suit affecting the parent-child relationship
3 filed on or after the effective date of this Act. A suit affecting
4 the parent-child relationship filed before that date is governed by
5 the law in effect on the date the suit was filed, and that law is
6 continued in effect for that purpose.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.