By:  Hughes S.B. No. 590

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a court order for retroactive child support, including for retroactive child support beginning on the date of the child's conception.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 154.131, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsections (g), (h), and (i) to read as follows:

(g)  Subject to Subsections (c) and (d), it is presumed to be reasonable and in the best interest of the child for a court to order retroactive child support for the child beginning on the earliest possible date of the child's conception, as determined by:

(1)  a physician using standard medical practice, as defined by Section 171.201, Health and Safety Code; or

(2)  a preponderance of other evidence presented to the court, including the testimony of a parent of the child.

(h)  On a proper showing, the court may order the obligor to pay, as additional retroactive child support, an equitable portion of all prenatal and postnatal health care expenses of the mother and the child.

(i)  The court shall confirm the amount of retroactive child support and render a cumulative money judgment for the total amount of retroactive child support owed.

SECTION 2.  Section 160.636(g), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(g)  If a court renders an order under this chapter establishing a man's paternity of the child or establishing a child support obligation of a man whose paternity has been established by the execution of a valid acknowledgment of paternity in regard to the child under Subchapter D [~~On a finding of parentage~~], the court shall, on the request of a party and on a proper showing, [~~may~~] order retroactive child support as provided by Section 154.131 [~~Chapter 154 and, on a proper showing, order a party to pay an equitable portion of all of the prenatal and postnatal health care expenses of the mother and the child~~].

SECTION 3.  Section 160.636(h), Family Code, is repealed.

SECTION 4.  The changes in law made by this Act with respect to an order adjudicating paternity apply only to an order rendered on or after the effective date of this Act. An order adjudicating paternity rendered before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the order is rendered, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 5.  The changes in law made by this Act with respect to an acknowledgment of paternity apply only to an acknowledgment of paternity executed on or after the effective date of this Act. An acknowledgment of paternity executed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the acknowledgment is executed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 6.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.