

By: Jones of Harris, et al.

H.B. No. 557

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the enforcement of an order to pay child support by contempt and the accrual of interest on certain child support arrearages.

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

SECTION 1. Section 157.162, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) The court may not find a respondent in contempt of court for failure to pay child support if the respondent appears at the hearing with:

(1) either:

(A) a copy of the payment record or other evidence satisfactory to the court showing that the respondent is current in the payment of child support as ordered by the court; or

(B) evidence satisfactory to the court that the respondent has a plan for becoming current in the payment of child support as ordered by the court; and

(2) evidence satisfactory to the court showing that the respondent's failure to make timely payments was due to an error made by a third party or other circumstances outside the respondent's control.

SECTION 2. Section 157.265, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), interest does not

1 accrue on child support arrearages that have been confirmed and
2 reduced to a money judgment if the court rendering the judgment
3 finds that the failure by a respondent to make timely payments
4 resulting in the arrearages was due to an error made by a third
5 party or other circumstances outside the respondent's control.

6 SECTION 3. (a) Section 157.162(d), Family Code, as added by
7 this Act, applies only to a hearing to enforce an order in a suit
8 affecting the parent-child relationship that commences on or after
9 the effective date of this Act. A hearing that commences before the
10 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
11 date the hearing commenced, and the former law is continued in
12 effect for that purpose.

13 (b) Section 157.265(g), Family Code, as added by this Act,
14 applies only to a money judgment for child support arrearages
15 rendered on or after the effective date of this Act. A money
16 judgment for child support arrearages rendered before the effective
17 date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the
18 judgment was rendered, and the former law is continued in effect for
19 that purpose.

20 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.