

By: Jones of Harris, et al.

H. B. No. 557

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

# 1 AN ACT

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

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

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

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

11 (1) either:

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

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

24 (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.