

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R2367 MCK-D

S.B. 151
By: Jackson
Jurisprudence
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, Texas law contains no provisions regarding the adoption of a child from a foreign country by a citizen of the United States. Therefore, the procedure for such an adoption is determined by each individual county, and there are concerns of conflicting procedures among counties. Texas is one of seventeen states with no statutes addressing foreign adoptions. As proposed, S.B. 151 provides a unified procedure throughout the state relating to international adoptions and birth certificates for such adoptees.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 162A, Family Code, by adding Section 162.023, as follows:

Sec. 162.023. ADOPTION ORDER FROM FOREIGN COUNTRY. (a) Requires the courts of this state to recognize and enforce an adoption order rendered to a U.S. citizen under foreign law as if it were rendered by a court in this state, except as otherwise provided by federal law.

(b) Authorizes a person who adopts a child in a foreign country to register the order in this state and to combine the petition for registration with a petition for a name change. Requires the court to order the state registrar to take certain actions upon finding that the foreign adoption order meets the requirements of Subsection (a).

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2003.