By: Bonnen of Galveston, Miles, Sheets H.B. No. 1781 1-1 (Senate Sponsor - Taylor of Galveston) (In the Senate - Received from the House April 20, 2015; May 4, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs; May 21, 2015, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 21, 2015, sent to printer.) 1-2 1-3 1-4 1-5 1-6

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COMMITTEE VOTE

| 1-8 | | Yea | Nay | Absent | PNV |
|------|------------|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| 1-9 | Huffman | Х | | | |
| 1-10 | Ellis | Х | | | |
| 1-11 | Birdwell | Х | | | |
| 1-12 | Creighton | Х | | | |
| 1-13 | Estes | Х | | | |
| 1-14 | Fraser | Х | | | |
| 1-15 | Nelson | Х | | | |
| 1-16 | Schwertner | Х | | | |
| 1-17 | Zaffirini | Х | | | |

1-18 1-19

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

relating to access by a sibling of a child separated from the 1-20 sibling due to an action by the Department of Family and Protective 1-21 1-22 1-23 Services.

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

1-24 SECTION 1. Section 102.0045, Family Code, is amended by 1-25 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

| | (a-1) The sibling of a child who is separated from the |
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| | sibling as the result of an action by the Department of Family and |
| 1-28 | Protective Services may file an original suit as provided by |
| 1-29 | Section 153.551 requesting access to the child, regardless of the |
| 1-30 | age of the sibling. A court shall expedite a suit filed under this |
| 1-31 | subsection. |

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015. 1-32

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