

1-1 By: Rodríguez S.B. No. 812  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 26, 2015; March 3, 2015,  
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;  
 1-4 March 31, 2015, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9,  
 1-5 Nays 0; March 31, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the appointment of an associate judge in a family law  
 1-20 proceeding involving a name change.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Sections 201.001(a) and (c), Family Code, are  
 1-23 amended to read as follows:

1-24 (a) A judge of a court having jurisdiction of a suit under  
 1-25 this title, ~~or~~ Title 1, Chapter 45, or Title 4 may appoint a  
 1-26 full-time or part-time associate judge to perform the duties  
 1-27 authorized by this chapter if the commissioners court of a county in  
 1-28 which the court has jurisdiction authorizes the employment of an  
 1-29 associate judge.

1-30 (c) If more than one court in a county has jurisdiction of a  
 1-31 suit under this title, ~~or~~ Title 1, Chapter 45, or Title 4 the  
 1-32 commissioners court may authorize the appointment of an associate  
 1-33 judge for each court or may authorize one or more associate judges  
 1-34 to share service with two or more courts.

1-35 SECTION 2. Sections 201.005(a) and (d), Family Code, are  
 1-36 amended to read as follows:

1-37 (a) Except as provided by this section, a judge of a court  
 1-38 may refer to an associate judge any aspect of a suit over which the  
 1-39 court has jurisdiction under this title, ~~or~~ Title 1, Chapter 45,  
 1-40 or Title 4, including any matter ancillary to the suit.

1-41 (d) The requirements of Subsections (b) and (c) shall apply  
 1-42 whenever a judge has authority to refer the trial of a suit under  
 1-43 this title, Title 1, Chapter 45, or Title 4 to an associate judge,  
 1-44 master, or other assistant judge regardless of whether the  
 1-45 assistant judge is appointed under this subchapter.

1-46 SECTION 3. Section 201.018(a), Family Code, is amended to  
 1-47 read as follows:

1-48 (a) If an associate judge appointed under this subchapter is  
 1-49 temporarily unable to perform the judge's official duties because  
 1-50 of absence or illness, injury, or other disability, a judge of a  
 1-51 court having jurisdiction of a suit under this title, ~~or~~ Title 1,  
 1-52 Chapter 45, or Title 4 may appoint a visiting associate judge to  
 1-53 perform the duties of the associate judge during the period of the  
 1-54 associate judge's absence or disability if the commissioners court  
 1-55 of a county in which the court has jurisdiction authorizes the  
 1-56 employment of a visiting associate judge.

1-57 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
 1-58 to a suit filed under Chapter 45, Family Code, on or after the  
 1-59 effective date of this Act. A suit filed under Chapter 45, Family  
 1-60 Code, before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law  
 1-61 in effect on the date the suit was filed, and that law is continued

2-1 in effect for that purpose.

2-2 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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