

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 1684

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the dismissal or nonsuit of a suit to terminate the
3 parent-child relationship filed by a governmental entity.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 161.203, Family Code, is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 Sec. 161.203. DISMISSAL OF PETITION. (a) A suit to
8 terminate may not be dismissed nor may a nonsuit be taken unless the
9 dismissal or nonsuit is approved by the court. The dismissal or
10 nonsuit approved by the court is without prejudice.

11 (b) Before approving a dismissal or nonsuit of a suit filed
12 by a governmental entity to terminate the parent-child
13 relationship, the court must consider:

14 (1) whether any child support, visitation, or other
15 orders affecting the child continue in effect after the dismissal;
16 and

17 (2) whether the dismissal is in the best interest of
18 each child affected by the suit.

19 (c) The court shall ensure that a final order dismissing a
20 suit filed by a governmental entity to terminate the parent-child
21 relationship includes appropriate orders for continued child
22 support, visitation, or other orders the court determines are
23 necessary and in the best interest of the child.

24 SECTION 2. Sections 161.203(b) and (c), Family Code, as

1 added by this Act, apply only to a motion for the dismissal or
2 nonsuit of a suit to terminate the parent-child relationship that
3 is made on or after the effective date of this Act.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.