

CHAPTER 867

H.B. No. 256

An Act relating to statements of facts in appeals of suits affecting the parent-child relationship in certain counties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Chapter 11, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 11.191 to read as follows:

Sec. 11.191. PAYMENT FOR STATEMENT OF FACTS. If the party requesting a statement of facts in an appeal of a suit affecting the parent-child relationship has filed an affidavit stating the party's inability to pay costs as provided by Rule 355, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, and the affidavit is approved by the trial court, the trial court shall order the county in which the trial was held to pay the costs of preparing the statement of facts. This section shall apply to any county with a population in excess of two million according to the most recent federal census.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 1985, and applies only to appeals of suits affecting the parent-child relationship in which an affidavit stating a party's inability to pay costs as provided by Rule 355, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, is filed on or after that date. An appeal in which an affidavit was filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in existence on the date the affidavit was filed, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on May 14, 1985, by a non-record vote; House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 256 on May 27, 1985, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 27, 1985, by a viva-voce vote.

Approved: June 15, 1985

Effective: September 1, 1985