

**CHAPTER 317**

**S.B. No. 553**

An Act relating to the appointment and functions of volunteer advocates in suits affecting the parent-child relationship; adding Section 11.101 to Chapter 11, Family Code.

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

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 11, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 11.101 to read as follows:

*“Section 11.101. VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES. (a) In any suit affecting the parent-child relationship brought by a governmental entity, the court may appoint a person who has received the court’s approved training and who has been certified by the court to appear at court hearings as a volunteer advocate on behalf of the child.*

*“(b) In addition, the court may appoint a group of court certified volunteers to serve as an administrative review board to advise the court as to the conservatorship appointment and the placement of the child by the department or authorized agency in foster home care, group home care, or institutional care.”*

**SECTION 2.** 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, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the Senate on April 18, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 17, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 134, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Approved: June 8, 1985

Effective: Immediately