

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 739

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the postponement of certain hearings in suits affecting
3 the parent-child relationship involving the Department of Family
4 and Protective Services.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section [262.201](#), Family Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsection (a-5) to read as follows:

8 (a-5) If a parent who is not indigent appears in opposition
9 to the suit, the court may, for good cause shown, postpone the full
10 adversary hearing for not more than seven days from the date of the
11 parent's appearance to allow the parent to hire an attorney or to
12 provide the parent's attorney time to respond to the petition and
13 prepare for the hearing. A postponement under this subsection is
14 subject to the limits and requirements prescribed by Subsection
15 (a-3).

16 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
17 to a suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed on or after
18 the effective date of this Act. A suit affecting the parent-child
19 relationship filed before the effective date of this Act is
20 governed by the law in effect on the date that the suit was filed,
21 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.