
DIGEST

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HB 224 Original

2026 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

Abstract: Provides continuous revisions to the Children's Code with respect to children in foster care.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 603) defines "caretaker", "foster care", "foster parent", "mandatory reporter", and "other suitable individual".

Proposed law retains present law, changes the term "foster parent" to "foster caregiver", and modernizes terminology to clarify intent. Proposed law also defines "intervention".

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 616) provides for the child abuse registry.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 622) provides for the placement of children pending a continued custody hearing.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 623) provides for notice of any instanter orders regarding children.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 624) provides for continued custody and safety plan hearings.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the court to make findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the hearing was properly provided when a parent, foster caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care is absent.

Proposed law modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 631) provides for petitions for a child in need of care. Authorizes a person to petition for permanent custody prior to adjudication.

Proposed law retains present law but removes authorization for a person to petition the court for permanent custody prior to adjudication.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 646) provides relative to answers to petitions prior to an adjudication hearing.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the court to make findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the hearing was properly served or whether presence was waived or requested when a parent or child is absent and authorizes postponement of the hearing in certain circumstances.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 650) authorizes courts to allow family members or interested persons to intervene in child in need of care proceedings.

Proposed law deletes present law and moves its substance to a new provision of proposed law (Ch.C. Art. 658.1). Provides for intervention by a relative or other suitable individual in child in need of care proceedings if it is in the best interest of the child.

Proposed law further provides for notice to intervenors. Authorizes the court to exclude intervenors from the adjudication hearing and provides for the termination of the intervention.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 672.3) requires a notice to relatives to describe the process for becoming a licensed foster home.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 679) provides for notice and presence at disposition hearings.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the court to make findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the hearing was properly provided or whether presence was waived or requested when a parent, child, foster caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care is absent. Proposed law also authorizes postponement of the hearing in certain circumstances.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 690) provides the requirements for a case review report.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Arts. 694, 695, and 696) provides for notice and presence at case review hearings.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the court to make findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the hearing was properly provided or whether presence was waived or requested when a parent, child, foster caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care is absent. Proposed law also authorizes postponement of the hearing in certain circumstances.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 697) authorizes courts to allow family members or interested persons to intervene in case review proceedings.

Proposed law deletes present law and moves its substance to a new provision of proposed law (Ch.C.

Art. 658.1).

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 702) requires the court to consider a child's need for continuing contact with any person with whom the child has an established and significant relationship.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Arts. 704, 705, and 706) provides for notice and presence at permanency hearings.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the court to make findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the hearing was properly provided or whether presence was waived or requested when a parent, child, foster caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care is absent. Proposed law also authorizes postponement of the hearing in certain circumstances.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 707) authorizes courts to allow family members or interested persons to intervene in permanency review proceedings.

Proposed law deletes present law and moves its substance to a new provision of proposed law (Ch.C. Art. 658.1).

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 740) requires the court to advise parents and children of certain rights during a families in need of services proceeding.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires the court to advise that the child and parents are parties to the proceeding, of the consequences of the proceeding, the right to receive notice of all hearings, the right to testify, the right to be free from discrimination, the right to an interpreter, and the right to reasonable accommodations for any disability.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 1003) defines certain terms. Proposed law retains present law and adds the definition of "foster care".

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 1004) provides for the petition to terminate parental rights.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 1112) provides for the private surrender of a child in the custody of the Dept. of Children and Family Services.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Arts. 1269.1, 1269.2, and 1269.7) provides for continuing contact agreements between relatives and foster parents.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 1279.6) provides for the education of children in foster care.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 1404) defines certain terms. Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology for the definition of "caretaker".

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 1427) provides for the transport of children to treatment facilities.

Proposed law retains present law and modernizes terminology.

(Amends Ch.C. Arts. 603(4)(a), (14), (15), (17)(l), and (20), 616(F), 622(B)(4), 623(A), (D), and (E), 624(B) and (C), 631(B), 646(A) and (C), 672.3(C)(3), 679(B)-(F), 690(B)(3), 694(A), 695(A), (C), and (D), 696(B), 702(D)(2)(c), 704(A), 705(A), (C), and (D), 706(B), 740, 1004(G), 1112(B), 1269.1, 1269.2(B) and (C), 1269.7, 1279.6(A)(1), (B), and (C), 1404(1), and 1427(C)(1)(intro. para.) and (a); Adds Ch.C. Arts. 603(33), 646(F), 658.1, and 1003(15); Repeals Ch.C. Arts. 650, 697, and 707)