

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
84R5199 EES-F

S.B. 822  
By: Rodríguez  
State Affairs  
3/11/2015  
As Filed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Title 5 (The Parent-Child Relationship and the Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship) of the Texas Family Code defines the terms “amicus attorney” and “attorney ad litem.” Amicus attorneys and attorneys ad litem are appointed to represent the child in an action or assist the court in making certain determinations. Title 2 (Child in Relation to the Family) of the Texas Family Code uses these terms but does not define them.

As proposed, S.B. 822 amends current law relating to the applicability of certain definitions and certain laws governing attorneys ad litem and amicus attorneys in family law proceedings.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Title 2, Family Code, by adding Subtitle E, as follows:

#### SUBTITLE E. GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### CHAPTER 47. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 47.001. APPLICABILITY OF DEFINITIONS. (a) Provides that, except as provided by Subsection (b), the definitions in Chapter 101 apply to terms used in this title.

(b) Provides that if a term defined in this title has a meaning different from the meaning provided by Chapter 101, the meaning provided by this title prevails.

Sec. 47.002. APPLICABILITY OF LAWS RELATING TO ATTORNEYS AD LITEM AND AMICUS ATTORNEYS. Provides that Chapter 107 (Special Appointments and Social Studies) applies to the appointment of an attorney ad litem or amicus attorney under this title.

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2015.