

# HB 3379 HELPS TEXAS KIDS

by closing **FOUR** gaps in the Family Code:

**1**

***Adds missing*** "best interest" factors that must be considered in matters involving children.

Whenever a Texas court makes a determination regarding how parents will share in raising their children in two homes, judges must weigh whether the decision will be in the "best interests" of the child. **Today, the Family Code does not list specific factors for courts to consider.** HB 3379 would add factors, ensuring the best possible outcomes for kids in every courtroom.

**2**

***Adds missing*** "equal" schedule for kids with two actively involved parents. **79% of Texans support this.**

The Family Code contains codified parenting time schedules that help judges, lawyers, and families resolve matters of possession and access by detailing the allocation of every moment of a child's life to one parent or the other, thereby eliminating any gaps or confusion. **The Family Code currently has NO schedule for parents to share parenting duties fully.**

**3**

***Adds missing*** distance radius for children whose parents live close to each other. **92% of Texans support this.**

The Family Code contains provisions that set a "default" parenting time schedule for parents who share legal decision-making based on the distance between homes: 0-50 miles, 50-100 miles, and 100+ miles. Currently, the narrowest guidance radius (50 miles) is broad—for example, that's the distance from the Texas Capitol down to Seguin or up to Salado. *What about good parents who live close and aim to each be fully involved?* **The Family Code fails these children with NO radius where children get maximized time with both parents.**

**CHILD-CENTERED POLICIES PROTECT TEXAS CHILDREN—PASS HB 3379**

For more information and sources, contact Laura Alter at [texas@sharedparenting.org](mailto:texas@sharedparenting.org).

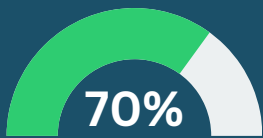


**4**

**Adds missing parenting time adjustment for child support when kids have two equally involved parents.**

**Thirty-four years after** the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) told Texas legislators to implement child support guidelines that formulaically adjust to reflect both parents' incomes and time children spend with parents, **Texas child support guidelines STILL lack these key elements that the OCSE said encourage the "continued involvement of both parents in the child's upbringing."** Why do we continue to fail Texas children by not adopting any form of these child-centered policies that are found in nearly every other US state today?

**Who in Texas SUPPORTS federally recommended formulaic adjustments for parenting time, like in HB 3379?**



of Texas judges  
& attorneys

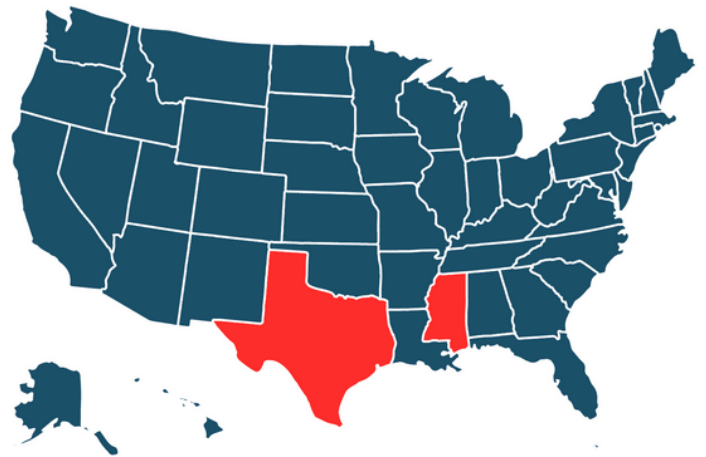


of Texas  
residents

2020 OAG family law stakeholders survey & 2022 Texas resident survey results available at [familiesforgood.org](http://familiesforgood.org).

**Which states DO NOT have ANY federally recommended formulaic parenting time adjustments or consider both parents' incomes in child support calculations?**

Only **TEXAS** and **MISSISSIPPI** STILL lack ANY federally recommended formulaic child support adjustments that consider both parents' incomes or time spent parenting their children. **Let's fix this now with HB 3379.**



**1987 Federal Advisory Committee to US States:**

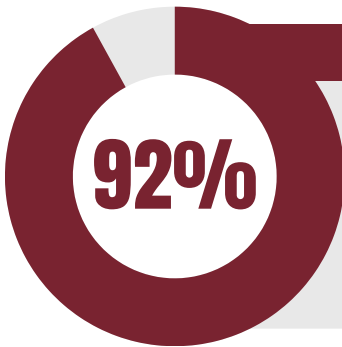
Formulaic adjustments of child support awards starting at **20-25%** parenting time "**encourage continued involvement of both parents in the child's upbringing**" and considering both parents' incomes in the calculation, ensures "**children benefit from both parents' ability to pay.**"

**TEXAS DOES NEITHER. Pass HB 3379.**

**CHILD-CENTERED POLICIES  
PROTECT TEXAS CHILDREN  
PASS HB 3379**

For more information and sources, contact Laura Alter at [texas@sharedparenting.org](mailto:texas@sharedparenting.org).

In July 2022, National Parents Organization (NPO) commissioned Researchscape International to complete an independent poll of Texas residents regarding attitudes regarding topics in HB 3379. For additional details, please contact the Texas NPO Chapter at [familiesforgood.org](http://familiesforgood.org) or [texas@sharedparenting.org](mailto:texas@sharedparenting.org).



### TEXANS BELIEVE MAXIMIZED TIME WITH PARENTS IS BEST

92% of Texas residents believe it's in a child's best interest to have as much time as possible with each of their parents when they live apart.

*Since 1989, Texas law has presumed it's in the best interest of all Texas children to have limited physical access one of their good parents. TFC, § 153.252*

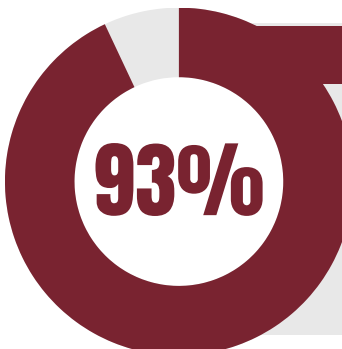
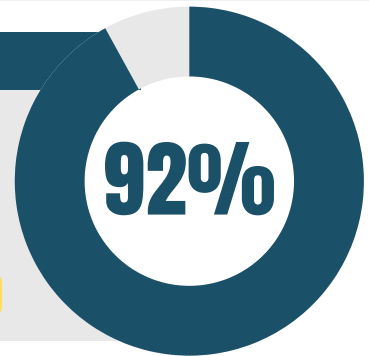
**HB 3379: If good parents live within 20 miles, start at "equal" parenting time and then adjust.**

### TEXANS SUPPORT PARENTS SHARING CHILD-RELATED EXPENSES

92% of Texas residents agree that child-related expenses should be split proportionally based on each parent's income when parents live apart.

*Only Texas & Mississippi do not adjust for both parents' incomes or time with the child when determining child support to cover child-related costs. TFC, Ch. 154*

**HB 3379: With "equal" parenting time, both parents' incomes are considered in support.**



### TEXANS SUPPORT PARENTING TIME ADJUSTMENTS

93% of Texas residents agree the amount of time each parent spends with their children impacts the child-related expenses each parent incurs.

*Only Texas & Mississippi do not formulaically adjust child support for time with the child, even though time spent parenting affects child-related expenses. TFC Ch. 154*

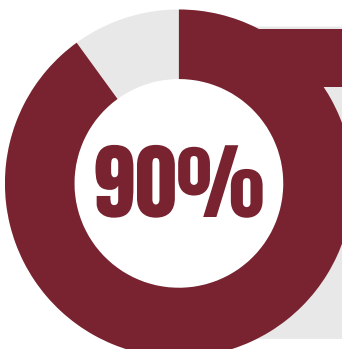
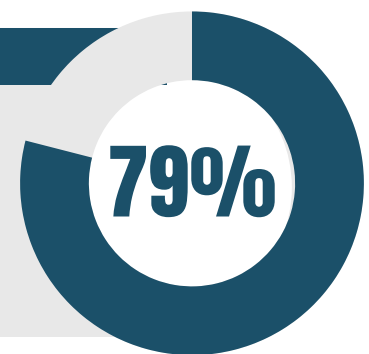
**HB 3379: Adds a formulaic child support adjustment when "equal" parenting time.**

### TEXANS SUPPORT AN "EQUAL" PARENTING SCHEDULE IN THE CODE

79% of Texas residents agree that the Texas Family Code should contain a schedule to gives children as much time as possible with both parents when they live apart.

*The Texas Family Code has several parenting schedules for judges, attorneys, and families to use when parents live apart. NO schedule today gives a child "equal" time with their parents.*

**HB 3379: Adds an "equal" standard possession schedule option to the Texas Family Code.**



### TEXANS SUPPORT LEGISLATORS WHO SUPPORT KIDS

9 in 10 Texas residents are more likely to vote for a candidate who protects a child's right to have maximized access to both of their parents after separation or divorce.

*Texas residents strongly support candidates who protect children & their right to access both of their good parents when their parents live apart.*

**HB 3379: Your support of HB 3379 shows your commitment to protecting Texas children.**