

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Regulating the use of parenting consultants

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Overview

This bill regulates the use of parenting time consultants in family law cases. Under current law, parenting time consultants are not regulated in statute. This bill provides statutory qualifications for parenting consultants, preventing parenting consultants from modifying custody and parenting time orders, and providing methods to discharge parenting time consultants.

Section

- 1** **Other agreements.** Adds qualifications for parenting consultants in statute, provides direction for the role of parenting time consultants, prohibits parenting consultants from changing parenting time or custody orders, and provides provisions for how the parties or a judge can discharge a parenting consultant.

Effective date. These provisions would apply to cases filed before, on, or after August 1, 2016.
- 2** **Decisions of parenting consultant.** Provides that the court is not bound by parenting consultant decisions.