

1-1 By: Huffman, et al. S.B. No. 891  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 19, 2019; March 1, 2019,  
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;  
 1-4 April 9, 2019, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 9, 2019,  
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 891 By: Huffman

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the operation and administration of and practice in  
 1-22 courts in the judicial branch of state government; imposing a fee;  
 1-23 creating a criminal offense.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 ARTICLE 1. DISTRICT COURTS

1-26 SECTION 1.01. Section 24.104(b), Government Code, is  
 1-27 amended to read as follows:

1-28 (b) The terms of the 4th District Court begin on the first  
 1-29 Mondays in January and ~~and~~ ~~March, May,~~ July ~~July~~ ~~September,~~ and  
 1-30 ~~November~~.

1-31 SECTION 1.02. (a) The heading to Section 24.124,  
 1-32 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-33 Sec. 24.124. 23RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT (~~BRAZORIA,~~  
 1-34 ~~MATAGORDA,~~ AND WHARTON COUNTIES).

1-35 (b) Sections 24.124(a) and (b), Government Code, are  
 1-36 amended to read as follows:

1-37 (a) The 23rd Judicial District is composed of ~~Brazoria,~~  
 1-38 ~~Matagorda,~~ and Wharton counties.

1-39 (b) The terms of the 23rd District Court begin:

1-40 (1) ~~[in Brazoria County on the first Mondays in April~~  
 1-41 ~~and October, and the terms are designated the April-September and~~  
 1-42 ~~October-March terms,~~

1-43 ~~[(2)]~~ in Matagorda County on the first Mondays in June  
 1-44 and December, and the terms are designated the June-November and  
 1-45 December-May terms; and

1-46 (2) ~~[(3)]~~ in Wharton County on the first Mondays in  
 1-47 July and January, and the terms are designated the July-December  
 1-48 and January-June terms.

1-49 (c) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by  
 1-50 adding Section 24.6005 to read as follows:

1-51 Sec. 24.6005. 461ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT (BRAZORIA COUNTY).

1-52 (a) The 461st Judicial District is composed of Brazoria County.

1-53 (b) The 461st District Court shall give preference to family  
 1-54 law matters.

1-55 (d) The local administrative district judge shall transfer  
 1-56 to the 461st District Court all cases from Brazoria County that are  
 1-57 pending in the 23rd District Court on the effective date of this  
 1-58 Act.

1-59 (e) When a case is transferred as provided by Subsection (d)  
 1-60 of this section:

2-1 (1) all processes, writs, bonds, recognizances, or  
2-2 other obligations issued from the 23rd District Court are  
2-3 returnable to the 461st District Court as if originally issued by  
2-4 that court; and

2-5 (2) the obligees on all bonds and recognizances taken  
2-6 in and for the 23rd District Court and all witnesses summoned to  
2-7 appear in the 23rd District Court are required to appear before the  
2-8 461st District Court as if originally required to appear before  
2-9 that court.

2-10 (f) The 461st Judicial District is created on September 1,  
2-11 2019.

2-12 SECTION 1.03. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government  
2-13 Code, is amended by adding Section 24.599 to read as follows:

2-14 Sec. 24.599. 455TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (TRAVIS COUNTY).

2-15 (a) The 455th Judicial District is composed of Travis County.

2-16 (b) The 455th District Court shall give preference to civil  
2-17 and family law matters.

2-18 (b) The 455th Judicial District is created on October 1,  
2-19 2020.

2-20 SECTION 1.04. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government  
2-21 Code, is amended by adding Section 24.600 to read as follows:

2-22 Sec. 24.600. 456TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (GUADALUPE COUNTY).

2-23 (a) The 456th Judicial District is composed of Guadalupe County.

2-24 (b) The 456th District Court shall give preference to civil  
2-25 cases.

2-26 (b) The 456th Judicial District is created on September 1,  
2-27 2019.

2-28 SECTION 1.05. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government  
2-29 Code, is amended by adding Section 24.6001 to read as follows:

2-30 Sec. 24.6001. 457TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (MONTGOMERY COUNTY).

2-31 The 457th Judicial District is composed of Montgomery County.

2-32 (b) The 457th Judicial District is created on September 1,  
2-33 2019.

2-34 SECTION 1.06. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government  
2-35 Code, is amended by adding Section 24.60091 to read as follows:

2-36 Sec. 24.60091. 466TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (COMAL COUNTY). The  
2-37 466th Judicial District is composed of Comal County.

2-38 (b) The 466th Judicial District is created on January 1,  
2-39 2021.

2-40 SECTION 1.07. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government  
2-41 Code, is amended by adding Section 24.60092 to read as follows:

2-42 Sec. 24.60092. 467TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (DENTON COUNTY).

2-43 The 467th Judicial District is composed of Denton County.

2-44 (b) The 467th Judicial District is created on January 1,  
2-45 2021.

2-46 SECTION 1.08. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government  
2-47 Code, is amended by adding Sections 24.60093 and 24.60094 to read as  
2-48 follows:

2-49 Sec. 24.60093. 468TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (COLLIN COUNTY).

2-50 (a) The 468th Judicial District is composed of Collin County.

2-51 (b) The 468th District Court shall give preference to family  
2-52 law matters.

2-53 Sec. 24.60094. 471ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT (COLLIN COUNTY).

2-54 (a) The 471st Judicial District is composed of Collin County.

2-55 (b) The 471st District Court shall give preference to civil  
2-56 matters.

2-57 (b) The 468th District Court is created on September 1,  
2-58 2019.

2-59 (c) The 471st District Court is created on September 1,  
2-60 2019.

## 2-61 ARTICLE 2. STATUTORY COUNTY COURTS

2-62 SECTION 2.01. (a) Section 25.0202, Government Code, is  
2-63 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (g) to  
2-64 read as follows:

2-65 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section  
2-66 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in Bosque County has  
2-67 concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:

2-68 (1) family law cases and proceedings;

2-69 (2) civil cases in which the matter in controversy

3-1 exceeds \$500 but does not exceed \$200,000, excluding interest,  
3-2 court costs, and attorney's fees; [~~and~~]

3-3 (3) contested probate matters under Section 32.003,  
3-4 Estates Code; and

3-5 (4) felony cases transferred from the district court  
3-6 to conduct arraignments, pretrial hearings, and motions to  
3-7 adjudicate or revoke and to accept guilty pleas.

3-8 (g) In matters of concurrent jurisdiction, including  
3-9 transferred felony proceedings, the judge of a county court at law  
3-10 and the district judge may exchange benches, transfer cases, assign  
3-11 each other to hear cases in accordance with orders signed and  
3-12 approved by the judges, and otherwise manage their respective  
3-13 dockets under local administrative rules.

3-14 (b) The changes in law made to Section 25.0202, Government  
3-15 Code, apply only to a criminal case filed on or after the effective  
3-16 date of this Act. A criminal case filed before that date is  
3-17 governed by the law in effect on the date the case is filed, and that  
3-18 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

3-19 SECTION 2.02. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Government  
3-20 Code, is amended by adding Sections 25.0381 and 25.0382 to read as  
3-21 follows:

3-22 Sec. 25.0381. CHAMBERS COUNTY. Chambers County has one  
3-23 statutory county court, the County Court at Law of Chambers County.

3-24 Sec. 25.0382. CHAMBERS COUNTY COURT AT LAW PROVISIONS.

3-25 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003  
3-26 and other law, a county court at law in Chambers County has  
3-27 concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:

3-28 (1) arraignments, pleas, and pretrial motions for  
3-29 felony cases; and

3-30 (2) family law cases and proceedings.

3-31 (b) In matters of concurrent jurisdiction, a judge of a  
3-32 county court at law and a judge of a district court in Chambers  
3-33 County may transfer cases between the courts in the same manner that  
3-34 judges of district courts may transfer cases under Section 24.003.

3-35 (c) The judge of a county court at law shall be paid an  
3-36 annual salary in an amount at least equal to the amount that is  
3-37 \$1,000 less than the total annual salary, including supplements,  
3-38 received by a district judge in the county. The salary shall be  
3-39 paid out of the county treasury on order of the commissioners court.

3-40 (d) The judge of a county court at law is entitled to travel  
3-41 expenses and necessary office expenses, including administrative  
3-42 and clerical help, in the same manner as a district judge in the  
3-43 county.

3-44 (e) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at  
3-45 law in matters of concurrent jurisdiction with the district court  
3-46 other than misdemeanor cases and probate matters and proceedings.  
3-47 The county clerk serves as clerk for all other cases. Each clerk  
3-48 shall establish a separate docket for a county court at law. The  
3-49 commissioners court may employ as many deputy sheriffs and bailiffs  
3-50 as are necessary to serve the court.

3-51 (f) If a case or proceeding in which a county court at law  
3-52 has concurrent jurisdiction with a district court is tried before a  
3-53 jury, the jury shall be composed of 12 members. In all other cases,  
3-54 the jury shall be composed of six members.

3-55 (g) The judge of a county court at law may, instead of  
3-56 appointing an official court reporter, contract for the services of  
3-57 a court reporter under guidelines established by the commissioners  
3-58 court.

3-59 (h) The laws governing the drawing, selection, service, and  
3-60 pay of jurors for county courts apply to a county court at law.  
3-61 Jurors regularly impaneled for a week by the district court may, on  
3-62 a request of a judge of the county court at law, be made available  
3-63 and shall serve for the week in a county court at law.

3-64 (i) A county court at law has the same terms of court as a  
3-65 district court in Chambers County.

3-66 (b) The County Court at Law of Chambers County is created on  
3-67 January 1, 2021.

3-68 SECTION 2.03. (a) Section 25.0481, Government Code, is  
3-69 amended to read as follows:

4-1 Sec. 25.0481. COMAL COUNTY. Comal County has the following  
4-2 statutory county courts:

- 4-3 (1) County Court at Law No. 1 of Comal County; ~~and~~
- 4-4 (2) County Court at Law No. 2 of Comal County; and
- 4-5 (3) County Court at Law No. 3 of Comal County.

4-6 (b) The County Court at Law No. 3 of Comal County is created  
4-7 on September 1, 2019.

4-8 SECTION 2.04. Section 25.0512, Government Code, is amended  
4-9 by adding Subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

4-10 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section  
4-11 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in Cooke County has  
4-12 concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in family law cases  
4-13 and proceedings.

4-14 (b) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at  
4-15 law in family law cases and proceedings, and the county clerk serves  
4-16 as clerk of the court in all other cases and proceedings.

4-17 SECTION 2.05. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Government  
4-18 Code, is amended by adding Sections 25.0881 and 25.0882 to read as  
4-19 follows:

4-20 Sec. 25.0881. GILLESPIE COUNTY. Gillespie County has one  
4-21 statutory county court, the County Court at Law of Gillespie  
4-22 County.

4-23 Sec. 25.0882. GILLESPIE COUNTY COURT AT LAW PROVISIONS.

4-24 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003  
4-25 and other law, a county court at law in Gillespie County has  
4-26 concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in family law cases  
4-27 and proceedings, including juvenile matters.

4-28 (b) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at  
4-29 law for family cases and proceedings, including juvenile matters,  
4-30 and the county clerk serves as clerk for all other cases. The  
4-31 commissioners court may employ as many deputy sheriffs and bailiffs  
4-32 as are necessary to serve the court.

4-33 (c) If a case or proceeding in which a county court at law  
4-34 has concurrent jurisdiction with a district court is tried before a  
4-35 jury, the jury shall be composed of 12 members. In all other cases,  
4-36 the jury shall be composed of six members.

4-37 (b) The County Court at Law of Gillespie County is created  
4-38 on October 1, 2019.

4-39 SECTION 2.06. (a) Section 25.1101(a), Government Code, is  
4-40 amended to read as follows:

4-41 (a) Hidalgo County has the following statutory county  
4-42 courts:

- 4-43 (1) County Court at Law No. 1 of Hidalgo County;
- 4-44 (2) County Court at Law No. 2 of Hidalgo County;
- 4-45 (3) County Court at Law No. 4 of Hidalgo County;
- 4-46 (4) County Court at Law No. 5 of Hidalgo County;
- 4-47 (5) County Court at Law No. 6 of Hidalgo County;
- 4-48 (6) County Court at Law No. 7 of Hidalgo County; ~~and~~
- 4-49 (7) County Court at Law No. 8 of Hidalgo County; and
- 4-50 (8) County Court at Law No. 9 of Hidalgo County.

4-51 (b) Section 25.1102, Government Code, is amended by adding  
4-52 Subsection (d) to read as follows:

4-53 (d) In all civil or criminal matters tried before a jury in a  
4-54 county court at law, the jury is composed of 12 members, except when  
4-55 the parties otherwise agree and as otherwise required by law.

4-56 (c) The County Court at Law No. 9 of Hidalgo County is  
4-57 created on January 1, 2020.

4-58 SECTION 2.07. (a) Section 25.1481, Government Code, is  
4-59 amended to read as follows:

4-60 Sec. 25.1481. LIBERTY COUNTY. (a) Liberty County has the  
4-61 following statutory county courts:

- 4-62 (1) ~~[one statutory county court,]~~ the County Court at  
4-63 Law of Liberty County; and
- 4-64 (2) the County Court at Law No. 2 of Liberty County.

4-65 (b) The county courts at law [County Court at Law] of  
4-66 Liberty County sit [sits] in Liberty.

4-67 (b) The County Court at Law No. 2 of Liberty County is  
4-68 created on September 1, 2019.

4-69 SECTION 2.08. Section 25.1902, Government Code, is amended



5-1 by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

5-2 (b-1) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by  
5-3 Subsections (a) and (b), the County Court at Law No. 1 of Potter  
5-4 County has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in  
5-5 felony cases to conduct arraignments, conduct pretrial hearings,  
5-6 and accept pleas in uncontested matters.

5-7 SECTION 2.09. (a) Section 25.2011, Government Code, is  
5-8 amended to read as follows:

5-9 Sec. 25.2011. ROCKWALL COUNTY. Rockwall County has the  
5-10 following statutory county courts:

5-11 (1) ~~one statutory county court,~~ the County Court at  
5-12 Law No. 1 of Rockwall County; and

5-13 (2) the County Court at Law No. 2 of Rockwall County.

5-14 (b) Sections 25.2012(c), (g), and (h), Government Code, are  
5-15 amended to read as follows:

5-16 (c) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at  
5-17 law except that the county clerk serves as clerk of a the county  
5-18 court at law in matters of mental health, the probate and criminal  
5-19 misdemeanor docket, and all civil matters in which a the county  
5-20 court at law does not have concurrent jurisdiction with a the  
5-21 district court.

5-22 (g) When administering a case for a the county court at  
5-23 law, the district clerk shall charge civil fees and court costs as  
5-24 if the case had been filed in a the district court. In a case of  
5-25 concurrent jurisdiction, the case shall be assigned to either a  
5-26 the district court or a the county court at law in accordance  
5-27 with local administrative rules established by the local  
5-28 administrative judge.

5-29 (h) The judge of a the county court at law shall appoint an  
5-30 official court reporter for the judge's court and shall set the  
5-31 official court reporter's annual salary, subject to approval by the  
5-32 county commissioners court. The official court reporter of a the  
5-33 county court at law shall take an oath or affirmation as an officer  
5-34 of the court. The official court reporter holds office at the  
5-35 pleasure of the judge ~~[of the court]~~ and shall be provided a private  
5-36 office in close proximity to the court. The official court reporter  
5-37 is entitled to all rights and benefits afforded all other county  
5-38 employees.

5-39 (c) The County Court at Law No. 2 of Rockwall County is  
5-40 created on September 1, 2019.

5-41 ARTICLE 3. MUNICIPAL COURTS

5-42 SECTION 3.01. (a) Section 30.00044(1), Government Code,  
5-43 is amended to read as follows:

5-44 (1) Sections ~~[Section]~~ 30.00007(b)(5) and 30.00009(c) and  
5-45 (d) do ~~[does]~~ not apply to this subchapter.

5-46 (b) Section 30.00044(1), Government Code, as amended by  
5-47 this section, applies to a clerk and other court personnel of the  
5-48 municipal court of record of the City of Lubbock employed on or  
5-49 after the effective date of this Act, regardless of whether the  
5-50 clerk or other personnel began employment before, on, or after the  
5-51 effective date of this Act.

5-52 ARTICLE 4. SENIOR DISTRICT JUDGES

5-53 SECTION 4.01. Section 832.101, Government Code, is amended  
5-54 to read as follows:

5-55 Sec. 832.101. INELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP. A retiree who  
5-56 makes an election under Subchapter C of Chapter 74 ~~[or who is  
5-57 appointed under Subchapter C of Chapter 75]~~ may not rejoin the  
5-58 retirement system or receive credit in the retirement system for  
5-59 the period of an appointment or for any service performed under  
5-60 assignment.

5-61 SECTION 4.02. Section 836.006, Government Code, is amended  
5-62 to read as follows:

5-63 Sec. 836.006. DIVERSION OF MONEY PROHIBITED. Except as  
5-64 provided by Section ~~[Sections 840.101(b) and]~~ 840.305(c), no part  
5-65 of the money contributed to the retirement system under Section  
5-66 840.102 ~~[or 840.104]~~ and no part of the contribution described by  
5-67 Section 840.103(b)(2) may be used for or diverted to any purpose  
5-68 other than the exclusive benefit of members, their beneficiaries,  
5-69 and annuitants of the retirement system.

6-1 SECTION 4.03. Section 837.101, Government Code, is amended  
6-2 to read as follows:

6-3 Sec. 837.101. JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENT. A retiree who makes an  
6-4 election under Subchapter C of Chapter 74 [~~or who is appointed under~~  
6-5 ~~Subchapter C of Chapter 75~~] may not rejoin or receive credit in the  
6-6 retirement system for the period of an appointment or for any  
6-7 service performed under assignment.

6-8 ARTICLE 5. MASTERS AND MAGISTRATES

6-9 SECTION 5.01. Chapter 54, Government Code, is amended by  
6-10 adding Subchapter B to read as follows:

6-11 SUBCHAPTER B. BELL COUNTY TRUANCY MASTERS

6-12 Sec. 54.101. APPOINTMENT. (a) The Commissioners Court of  
6-13 Bell County may select masters to serve the justice courts of Bell  
6-14 County having jurisdiction in truancy matters.

6-15 (b) The commissioners court shall establish the minimum  
6-16 qualifications, salary, benefits, and other compensation of each  
6-17 master position and shall determine whether the position is  
6-18 full-time or part-time.

6-19 (c) A master appointed under this section serves at the  
6-20 pleasure of the commissioners court.

6-21 Sec. 54.102. JURISDICTION. A master appointed under this  
6-22 subchapter has concurrent jurisdiction with the judges of the  
6-23 justice of the peace courts of Bell County over cases involving  
6-24 truant conduct in accordance with Section 65.004, Family Code.

6-25 Sec. 54.103. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The Commissioners  
6-26 Court of Bell County shall establish the powers and duties of a  
6-27 master appointed under this subchapter.

6-28 (b) An order of referral may limit the use or power of a  
6-29 master.

6-30 (c) Unless limited by published local rule, by written  
6-31 order, or by an order of referral, a master may perform all acts and  
6-32 take all measures necessary and proper to perform the tasks  
6-33 assigned in a referral.

6-34 (d) A master may administer oaths.

6-35 Sec. 54.104. JUDICIAL IMMUNITY. A master has the same  
6-36 judicial immunity as a district judge.

6-37 Sec. 54.105. TRAINING. A master appointed under this  
6-38 subchapter must successfully complete all training a justice of the  
6-39 peace is required to complete under state law.

6-40 Sec. 54.106. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SUMMONS OR ORDER. If an  
6-41 attorney, party, witness, or any other person fails to comply with a  
6-42 summons or order, the master may certify that failure in writing to  
6-43 the referring court for appropriate action.

6-44 Sec. 54.107. WITNESSES. (a) A witness appearing before a  
6-45 master is subject to the penalties of perjury as provided by Chapter  
6-46 37, Penal Code.

6-47 (b) A witness referred to the court under Section 54.106 is  
6-48 subject to the same penalties and orders that may be imposed on a  
6-49 witness appearing in a hearing before the court.

6-50 SECTION 5.02. Chapter 54, Government Code, is amended by  
6-51 adding Subchapter MM to read as follows:

6-52 SUBCHAPTER MM. MAGISTRATES IN KERR COUNTY

6-53 Sec. 54.2101. AUTHORIZATION; APPOINTMENT; ELIMINATION.  
6-54 (a) The Commissioners Court of Kerr County may authorize the judges  
6-55 of the district and statutory county courts in Kerr County to  
6-56 appoint one or more part-time or full-time magistrates to perform  
6-57 the duties authorized by this subchapter.

6-58 (b) The judges of the district and statutory county courts  
6-59 in Kerr County by a unanimous vote may appoint magistrates as  
6-60 authorized by the Commissioners Court of Kerr County.

6-61 (c) An order appointing a magistrate must be signed by the  
6-62 local presiding judge of the district courts serving Kerr County,  
6-63 and the order must state:

6-64 (1) the magistrate's name; and

6-65 (2) the date the magistrate's employment is to begin.

6-66 (d) An authorized magistrate's position may be eliminated  
6-67 on a majority vote of the Commissioners Court of Kerr County.

6-68 Sec. 54.2102. QUALIFICATIONS; OATH OF OFFICE. (a) To be  
6-69 eligible for appointment as a magistrate, a person must:

7-1           (1) be a citizen of the United States;  
 7-2           (2) have resided in Kerr County for at least the two  
 7-3 years preceding the person's appointment; and  
 7-4           (3) be at least 30 years of age.

7-5           (b) A magistrate appointed under Section 54.2101 must take  
 7-6 the constitutional oath of office required of appointed officers of  
 7-7 this state.

7-8           Sec. 54.2103. COMPENSATION. (a) A magistrate is entitled  
 7-9 to the salary determined by the Commissioners Court of Kerr County.

7-10           (b) A full-time magistrate's salary may not be less than  
 7-11 that of a justice of the peace of Kerr County as established by the  
 7-12 annual budget of Kerr County.

7-13           (c) A part-time magistrate's salary is equal to the per-hour  
 7-14 salary of a justice of the peace. The per-hour salary is determined  
 7-15 by dividing the annual salary by a 2,000 work-hour year. The local  
 7-16 administrative judge of the district courts serving Kerr County  
 7-17 shall approve the number of hours for which a part-time magistrate  
 7-18 is to be paid.

7-19           (d) The magistrate's salary is paid from the county fund  
 7-20 available for payment of officers' salaries.

7-21           Sec. 54.2104. JUDICIAL IMMUNITY. A magistrate has the same  
 7-22 judicial immunity as a district judge.

7-23           Sec. 54.2105. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT. (a) A magistrate  
 7-24 may be terminated by a majority vote of all the judges of the  
 7-25 district and statutory county courts of Kerr County.

7-26           (b) To terminate a magistrate's employment, the local  
 7-27 administrative judge of the district courts serving Kerr County  
 7-28 must sign a written order of termination. The order must state:

7-29           (1) the magistrate's name; and  
 7-30           (2) the final date of the magistrate's employment.

7-31           Sec. 54.2106. JURISDICTION; RESPONSIBILITY; POWERS.  
 7-32 (a) The judges of the district or statutory county courts shall  
 7-33 establish standing orders to be followed by a magistrate or parties  
 7-34 appearing before a magistrate, as applicable.

7-35           (b) To the extent authorized by this subchapter and the  
 7-36 standing orders, a magistrate has jurisdiction to exercise the  
 7-37 authority granted by the judges of the district or statutory county  
 7-38 courts.

7-39           (c) A magistrate has all of the powers of a magistrate under  
 7-40 the laws of this state and may administer an oath for any purpose.

7-41           (d) A magistrate shall give preference to performing the  
 7-42 duties of a magistrate under Article 15.17, Code of Criminal  
 7-43 Procedure.

7-44           (e) A magistrate is authorized to:  
 7-45           (1) set, adjust, and revoke bonds before the filing of  
 7-46 an information or the return of an indictment;

7-47           (2) conduct examining trials;  
 7-48           (3) determine whether a defendant is indigent and  
 7-49 appoint counsel for an indigent defendant;

7-50           (4) issue search and arrest warrants;  
 7-51           (5) issue emergency protective orders;  
 7-52           (6) order emergency mental commitments; and

7-53           (7) conduct initial juvenile detention hearings if  
 7-54 approved by the Kerr County Juvenile Board.

7-55           (f) With the express authorization of a justice of the  
 7-56 peace, a magistrate may exercise concurrent criminal jurisdiction  
 7-57 with the justice of the peace to dispose as provided by law of cases  
 7-58 filed in the precinct of the authorizing justice of the peace,  
 7-59 except for a trial on the merits following a plea of not guilty.

7-60           (g) A magistrate may:  
 7-61           (1) issue notices of the setting of a case for a  
 7-62 hearing;

7-63           (2) conduct hearings;  
 7-64           (3) compel production of evidence;  
 7-65           (4) hear evidence;

7-66           (5) issue summons for the appearance of witnesses;  
 7-67           (6) swear witnesses for hearings;

7-68           (7) regulate proceedings in a hearing; and  
 7-69           (8) perform any act and take any measure necessary and



8-1 proper for the efficient performance of the duties required by the  
8-2 magistrate's jurisdiction and authority.

8-3 Sec. 54.2107. PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, AND OFFICE SPACE. The  
8-4 Commissioners Court of Kerr County shall provide:

8-5 (1) personnel for the legal or clerical functions  
8-6 necessary to perform the magistrate's duties authorized by this  
8-7 chapter; and

8-8 (2) sufficient equipment and office space for the  
8-9 magistrate and personnel to perform the magistrate's essential  
8-10 functions.

8-11 ARTICLE 6. DISTRICT AND COUNTY ATTORNEYS

8-12 SECTION 6.01. Section 43.105(a), Government Code, is  
8-13 amended to read as follows:

8-14 (a) The voters of Montgomery County elect a district  
8-15 attorney for the 9th Judicial District who represents the state in  
8-16 that district court only in that county. The district attorney also  
8-17 acts as district attorney for the 410th and 457th Judicial  
8-18 Districts [District in Montgomery County].

8-19 SECTION 6.02. Section 43.108, Government Code, is amended  
8-20 to read as follows:

8-21 Sec. 43.108. 21ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT. (a) The voters of  
8-22 Washington County [and Burleson counties] elect a district attorney  
8-23 for the 21st Judicial District who represents the state in that  
8-24 district court only in that county [those counties].

8-25 (b) The district attorney also represents the state and  
8-26 performs the duties of district attorney before the 335th District  
8-27 Court in Washington County [and Burleson counties].

8-28 SECTION 6.03. Subchapter B, Chapter 45, Government Code, is  
8-29 amended by adding Section 45.126 to read as follows:

8-30 Sec. 45.126. BURLESON COUNTY. In Burleson County, the  
8-31 county attorney of Burleson County shall perform the duties imposed  
8-32 on and have the powers conferred on district attorneys by general  
8-33 law and is entitled to be compensated by the state in the manner and  
8-34 amount set by general law relating to the salary paid to district  
8-35 attorneys by the state.

8-36 SECTION 6.04. Section 46.002, Government Code, is amended  
8-37 to read as follows:

8-38 Sec. 46.002. PROSECUTORS SUBJECT TO CHAPTER. This chapter  
8-39 applies to the state prosecuting attorney, all county prosecutors,  
8-40 and the following state prosecutors:

8-41 (1) the district attorneys for Kenedy and Kleberg  
8-42 Counties and for the 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 18th, 21st, 23rd, 24th,  
8-43 26th, 27th, 29th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 38th, 39th,  
8-44 42nd, 43rd, 46th, 47th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 63rd, 64th,  
8-45 66th, 69th, 70th, 76th, 79th, 81st, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 88th, 90th,  
8-46 97th, 100th, 105th, 106th, 109th, 110th, 112th, 118th, 119th,  
8-47 123rd, 132nd, 142nd, 143rd, 145th, 156th, 159th, 173rd, 196th,  
8-48 198th, 216th, 220th, 229th, 235th, 253rd, 258th, 259th, 266th,  
8-49 268th, 271st, 286th, 287th, 293rd, 329th, 344th, 349th, 355th,  
8-50 369th, 452nd, and 506th judicial districts;

8-51 (2) the criminal district attorneys for the counties  
8-52 of Anderson, Austin, Bastrop, Bexar, Bowie, Brazoria, Caldwell,  
8-53 Calhoun, Cass, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Deaf Smith, Denton, Eastland,  
8-54 Fannin, Galveston, Grayson, Gregg, Harrison, Hays, Hidalgo,  
8-55 Jasper, Jefferson, Kaufman, Kendall, Lubbock, McLennan, Madison,  
8-56 Navarro, Newton, Panola, Polk, Randall, Rockwall, San Jacinto,  
8-57 Smith, Tarrant, Taylor, Tyler, Upshur, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker,  
8-58 Waller, Wichita, Wood, and Yoakum; and

8-59 (3) the county attorneys performing the duties of  
8-60 district attorneys in the counties of Andrews, Aransas, Burleson,  
8-61 Callahan, Cameron, Castro, Colorado, Crosby, Ellis, Falls,  
8-62 Freestone, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Lamar, Lamb, Lampasas, Lavaca,  
8-63 Lee, Limestone, Marion, Milam, Morris, Ochiltree, Oldham, Orange,  
8-64 Rains, Red River, Robertson, Rusk, Swisher, Terry, Webb, and  
8-65 Willacy.

8-66 ARTICLE 7. COURT REPORTERS AND BAILIFFS

8-67 SECTION 7.01. Section 322.003, Business & Commerce Code, is  
8-68 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (e) to  
8-69 read as follows:



9-1 (a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsections  
 9-2 [Subsection] (b) and (e), this chapter applies to electronic  
 9-3 records and electronic signatures relating to a transaction.

9-4 (e) This chapter does not apply to the transmission,  
 9-5 preparation, completion, enforceability, or admissibility of a  
 9-6 document in any form that is:

9-7 (1) produced by a court reporter appointed under  
 9-8 Chapter 52, Government Code, or a court reporter certified under or  
 9-9 a shorthand reporting firm registered under Chapter 154, Government  
 9-10 Code, for use in the state or federal judicial system; or

9-11 (2) governed by rules adopted by the supreme court,  
 9-12 including rules governing the electronic filing system established  
 9-13 by the supreme court.

9-14 SECTION 7.02. Subchapter B, Chapter 51, Civil Practice and  
 9-15 Remedies Code, is amended by adding Section 51.017 to read as  
 9-16 follows:

9-17 Sec. 51.017. SERVICE OF NOTICE ON COURT REPORTER. (a) In  
 9-18 addition to requirements for service of notice of appeal imposed by  
 9-19 Rule 25.1(e), Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure, notice of appeal,  
 9-20 including an interlocutory appeal, must be served on each court  
 9-21 reporter responsible for preparing the reporter's record.

9-22 (b) Notwithstanding Section 22.004, Government Code, the  
 9-23 supreme court may not amend or adopt rules in conflict with this  
 9-24 section.

9-25 SECTION 7.03. Chapter 52, Government Code, is amended by  
 9-26 adding Subchapter B to read as follows:

9-27 SUBCHAPTER B. DUTIES OF SHORTHAND REPORTING FIRMS

9-28 Sec. 52.011. ITEMIZED STATEMENT OF TAXABLE COSTS. A court  
 9-29 reporting firm on request shall provide to a court reporter who  
 9-30 prepares a deposition transcript an itemized statement of the  
 9-31 charges that constitute the amount stated on the court reporter's  
 9-32 certificate filed with the court as part of the deposition as  
 9-33 required by Rule 203, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, that the court  
 9-34 clerk must tax as costs.

9-35 SECTION 7.04. Section 53.002(d), Government Code, is  
 9-36 amended to read as follows:

9-37 (d) The judges of the 15th, ~~and~~ 59th, and 397th district  
 9-38 courts and the judges of the statutory county courts in Grayson  
 9-39 County may each appoint a bailiff.

9-40 SECTION 7.05. Section 53.004(c), Government Code, is  
 9-41 amended to read as follows:

9-42 (c) A bailiff in the 15th, ~~or~~ 59th, or 397th district  
 9-43 court or a statutory county court in Grayson County must be a  
 9-44 citizen of the United States ~~[and a resident of Grayson County].~~

9-45 SECTION 7.06. Section 53.009(g), Government Code, is  
 9-46 amended to read as follows:

9-47 (g) Each bailiff appointed by a judge of the 15th, ~~or~~  
 9-48 59th, or 397th district court or appointed by a statutory county  
 9-49 court judge in Grayson County is entitled to receive from the county  
 9-50 a salary set by the judge ~~[equal to the salary of a jailer employed~~  
 9-51 ~~by the Grayson County sheriff].~~

9-52 SECTION 7.07. Section 154.001(a), Government Code, is  
 9-53 amended by adding Subdivisions (1-a) and (3-a) to read as follows:

9-54 (1-a) "Apprentice court reporter" means a person to  
 9-55 whom an apprentice court reporter certification is issued as  
 9-56 authorized by Section 154.1011.

9-57 (3-a) "Provisional court reporter" means a court  
 9-58 reporter to whom a provisional certification is issued as  
 9-59 authorized by Section 154.1011.

9-60 SECTION 7.08. Sections 154.101(b), (c), and (e), Government  
 9-61 Code, are amended to read as follows:

9-62 (b) A person may not engage in shorthand reporting in this  
 9-63 state unless the person is certified as:

9-64 (1) a shorthand reporter by the supreme court under  
 9-65 this section; or

9-66 (2) an apprentice court reporter or provisional court  
 9-67 reporter certified as authorized by Section 154.1011, subject to  
 9-68 the terms of the person's certification.

9-69 (c) A certification issued under this section ~~[chapter]~~

10-1 must be for one or more of the following methods of shorthand  
 10-2 reporting:

- 10-3 (1) written shorthand;
- 10-4 (2) machine shorthand;
- 10-5 (3) oral stenography; or
- 10-6 (4) any other method of shorthand reporting authorized  
 10-7 by the supreme court.

10-8 (e) A person may not assume or use the title or designation  
 10-9 "court recorder," "court reporter," or "shorthand reporter," or any  
 10-10 abbreviation, title, designation, words, letters, sign, card, or  
 10-11 device tending to indicate that the person is a court reporter or  
 10-12 shorthand reporter, unless the person is certified as a shorthand  
 10-13 reporter or provisional court reporter by the supreme court.  
 10-14 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to either sanction or  
 10-15 prohibit the use of electronic court recording equipment operated  
 10-16 by a noncertified court reporter pursuant and according to rules  
 10-17 adopted or approved by the supreme court.

10-18 SECTION 7.09. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 154, Government  
 10-19 Code, is amended by adding Sections 154.1011 and 154.1012 to read as  
 10-20 follows:

10-21 Sec. 154.1011. APPRENTICE COURT REPORTER AND PROVISIONAL  
 10-22 COURT REPORTER CERTIFICATIONS. (a) Subject to Section 152.101,  
 10-23 the commission by rule may provide for:

10-24 (1) the certification of an apprentice court reporter  
 10-25 who may engage in court reporting only:

10-26 (A) under the direct supervision of a certified  
 10-27 court reporter; and

10-28 (B) for the types of legal proceedings authorized  
 10-29 by commission rule; and

10-30 (2) the provisional certification of a court reporter,  
 10-31 including a court reporter described by Section 154.1012(f), that  
 10-32 allows a person to engage in court reporting only in accordance with  
 10-33 the terms and for the period expressly authorized by commission  
 10-34 rule.

10-35 (b) Rules adopted under Subsection (a) may allow for the  
 10-36 issuance of a certification under Section 154.101 to:

10-37 (1) a certified apprentice court reporter who  
 10-38 satisfactorily completes the apprenticeship and passes Part A of  
 10-39 the examination required by Section 154.103; or

10-40 (2) a court reporter who holds a provisional  
 10-41 certification on the reporter's completion of the terms of the  
 10-42 commission's conditional approval.

10-43 Sec. 154.1012. RECIPROCITY. (a) The commission may waive  
 10-44 any prerequisite to obtaining a court reporter certification or a  
 10-45 shorthand reporting firm registration for an applicant after  
 10-46 reviewing the applicant's credentials and determining the  
 10-47 applicant holds a certification, registration, or license issued by  
 10-48 another jurisdiction that has certification, registration, or  
 10-49 licensing requirements substantially equivalent to those of this  
 10-50 state.

10-51 (b) The commission shall develop and periodically update on  
 10-52 a schedule established by the commission a list of states that have  
 10-53 certification, registration, or licensing requirements for court  
 10-54 reporters and shorthand reporting firms substantially equivalent  
 10-55 to those of this state.

10-56 (c) The commission shall certify to the supreme court the  
 10-57 name of each qualified applicant who:

10-58 (1) holds a certification, registration, or license to  
 10-59 engage in court reporting issued by another state that, as  
 10-60 determined by the commission:

10-61 (A) has certification, registration, or  
 10-62 licensing requirements to engage in court reporting that are  
 10-63 substantially equivalent to the requirements of this state for a  
 10-64 court reporter governed by this chapter and Chapter 52; or

10-65 (B) is included on the list developed by the  
 10-66 commission under Subsection (b); and

10-67 (2) before certification in this state:  
 10-68 (A) passes Part B of the examination required by  
 10-69 Section 154.103; and

11-1 (B) provides proof acceptable to the commission  
 11-2 that the applicant has been actively performing court reporting in  
 11-3 another jurisdiction for at least three of the preceding five  
 11-4 years.

11-5 (d) A reciprocity agreement approved by the supreme court  
 11-6 under Section 152.202(b) must require an applicant who holds a  
 11-7 certification, registration, or license to engage in court  
 11-8 reporting issued by another state and who applies for certification  
 11-9 as a court reporter in this state to:

11-10 (1) pass Part B of the examination required by Section  
 11-11 154.103;

11-12 (2) provide proof acceptable to the commission that  
 11-13 the applicant has been actively performing court reporting in  
 11-14 another jurisdiction for at least three of the preceding five  
 11-15 years; and

11-16 (3) hold a certification, registration, or license  
 11-17 that the commission determines is at least equivalent to the  
 11-18 registered professional reporter designation or similar  
 11-19 designation.

11-20 (e) A person who applies for certification as a court  
 11-21 reporter in this state and meets the requirements under Subsection  
 11-22 (c) is not required to meet the requirement under Subsection  
 11-23 (d)(3).

11-24 (f) Subject to Section 152.101, the commission may adopt  
 11-25 rules requiring the issuance of a provisional certification under  
 11-26 Section 154.1011 to an applicant described by Subsection (c) or (d)  
 11-27 that authorizes the applicant to serve as a court reporter in this  
 11-28 state for a limited time and under conditions the commission  
 11-29 considers reasonably necessary to protect the public interest.

11-30 (b) In developing rules under Section 154.1011, Government  
 11-31 Code, as added by this section, the Judicial Branch Certification  
 11-32 Commission shall:

11-33 (1) establish a stakeholder work group to receive  
 11-34 input; and

11-35 (2) solicit comments from the Texas Court Reporters  
 11-36 Association, the Texas Deposition Reporters Association, court  
 11-37 reporting schools, and other interested parties.

11-38 (c) Not later than June 1, 2020, the Judicial Branch  
 11-39 Certification Commission shall develop the list required by Section  
 11-40 154.1012(b), Government Code, as added by this section.

11-41 (d) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Judicial Branch  
 11-42 Certification Commission shall communicate with the appropriate  
 11-43 regulatory officials in each state to inquire whether the state  
 11-44 desires to enter into a reciprocity agreement with this state as  
 11-45 authorized by Section 152.202(b), Government Code. Not later than  
 11-46 April 1, 2020, the commission shall submit a report on the results  
 11-47 of the inquiry to the Supreme Court of Texas or the court's  
 11-48 designee.

11-49 SECTION 7.10. Section 154.102, Government Code, is amended  
 11-50 to read as follows:

11-51 Sec. 154.102. APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION. If applicable,  
 11-52 a [A] person seeking certification must file an application for  
 11-53 examination with the commission not later than the 30th day before  
 11-54 the date fixed for the examination. The application must be  
 11-55 accompanied by the required fee.

11-56 SECTION 7.11. Section 154.104, Government Code, is amended  
 11-57 to read as follows:

11-58 Sec. 154.104. CERTIFICATION TO SUPREME COURT. (a) The  
 11-59 commission shall certify to the supreme court the name of each  
 11-60 qualified applicant for certification under Section 154.101 who has  
 11-61 passed the examination.

11-62 (b) The commission shall certify to the supreme court the  
 11-63 name of each applicant who meets the qualifications for  
 11-64 certification as:

11-65 (1) an apprentice court reporter; or

11-66 (2) a provisional court reporter.

11-67 SECTION 7.12. Section 154.105(a), Government Code, is  
 11-68 amended to read as follows:

11-69 (a) On certification under Section 154.101 or as a

12-1 provisional court reporter, a shorthand reporter may use the title  
 12-2 "Certified Shorthand Reporter" or the abbreviation "CSR."

12-3 SECTION 7.13. Section 154.107, Government Code, is amended  
 12-4 by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

12-5 (d) Notwithstanding Section 152.2015 and Subsection (c) of  
 12-6 this section, a shorthand reporting firm shall pay a registration  
 12-7 or renewal fee in an amount equal to the fee for court reporter  
 12-8 certification under Section 154.101 in lieu of the fee required for  
 12-9 a shorthand reporting firm registration if a certified court  
 12-10 reporter of the firm:

12-11 (1) has an ownership interest in the firm of more than  
 12-12 50 percent; and

12-13 (2) maintains actual control of the firm.

12-14 SECTION 7.14. Subchapter C, Chapter 154, Government Code,  
 12-15 is amended by adding Section 154.108 to read as follows:

12-16 Sec. 154.108. CONTINUING EDUCATION. Subject to Section  
 12-17 152.101, the commission by rule shall require each court reporter  
 12-18 who holds a certification issued by the commission and at least one  
 12-19 person who has management responsibility for a shorthand reporting  
 12-20 firm registered in this state to complete continuing professional  
 12-21 education.

12-22 SECTION 7.15. Section 154.110(a), Government Code, is  
 12-23 amended to read as follows:

12-24 (a) After receiving a complaint and giving the certified  
 12-25 shorthand reporter notice and an opportunity for a hearing as  
 12-26 prescribed by Subchapter B, Chapter 153, the commission shall  
 12-27 revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew the shorthand reporter's  
 12-28 certification or issue a reprimand to the reporter for:

12-29 (1) fraud or corruption;

12-30 (2) dishonesty;

12-31 (3) wilful or negligent violation or failure of duty;

12-32 (4) incompetence;

12-33 (5) fraud or misrepresentation in obtaining  
 12-34 certification;

12-35 (6) a final conviction of a felony or misdemeanor that  
 12-36 directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of a certified  
 12-37 shorthand reporter, as determined by supreme court rules;

12-38 (7) engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting  
 12-39 using a method for which the reporter is not certified;

12-40 (8) engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting  
 12-41 while certification is suspended;

12-42 (9) unprofessional conduct, including giving directly  
 12-43 or indirectly, benefiting from, or being employed as a result of any  
 12-44 gift, incentive, reward, or anything of value to attorneys,  
 12-45 clients, or their representatives or agents, except for nominal  
 12-46 items that do not exceed \$100 in the aggregate for each recipient  
 12-47 each year;

12-48 (10) entering into or providing services under a  
 12-49 prohibited contract described by Section 154.115; or

12-50 (11) committing any other act that violates this  
 12-51 chapter or a rule or provision of the code of ethics adopted under  
 12-52 this subtitle~~, or~~

12-53 [~~(12) other sufficient cause~~].

12-54 SECTION 7.16. (a) Section 154.111, Government Code, is  
 12-55 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection  
 12-56 (g) to read as follows:

12-57 (a) After receiving a complaint and giving the shorthand  
 12-58 reporting firm or affiliate office notice and an opportunity for a  
 12-59 hearing as prescribed by Subchapter B, Chapter 153, the commission  
 12-60 shall reprimand, assess a reasonable fine against, or suspend,  
 12-61 revoke, or refuse to renew the registration of a shorthand  
 12-62 reporting firm or affiliate office for:

12-63 (1) fraud or corruption;

12-64 (2) dishonesty;

12-65 (3) conduct on the part of an officer, director, or  
 12-66 managerial employee of the shorthand reporting firm or affiliate  
 12-67 office if the officer, director, or managerial employee orders,  
 12-68 encourages, or permits conduct that the officer, director, or  
 12-69 managerial employee knows or should have known violates this



13-1 subtitle;

13-2 (4) conduct on the part of an officer, director, or

13-3 managerial employee or agent of the shorthand reporting firm or

13-4 affiliate office who has direct supervisory authority over a person

13-5 for whom the officer, director, employee, or agent knows or should

13-6 have known violated this subtitle and knowingly fails to take

13-7 reasonable remedial action to avoid or mitigate the consequences of

13-8 the person's actions;

13-9 (5) fraud or misrepresentation in obtaining

13-10 registration;

13-11 (6) a final conviction of an officer, director, or

13-12 managerial employee of a shorthand reporting firm or affiliate

13-13 office for a felony or misdemeanor that is directly related to the

13-14 provision of court reporting services, as determined by supreme

13-15 court rules;

13-16 (7) engaging the services of a reporter that the

13-17 shorthand reporting firm or affiliate office knew or should have

13-18 known was using a method for which the reporter is not certified;

13-19 (8) knowingly providing court reporting services

13-20 while the shorthand reporting firm's or affiliate office's

13-21 registration is suspended or engaging the services of a shorthand

13-22 reporter whose certification the shorthand reporting firm or

13-23 affiliate office knew or should have known was suspended;

13-24 (9) unprofessional conduct, including:

13-25 (A) ~~[a pattern of]~~ giving directly or indirectly

13-26 or benefiting from or being employed as a result of giving any gift,

13-27 incentive, reward, or anything of value to attorneys, clients, or

13-28 their representatives or agents, except for nominal items that do

13-29 not exceed \$100 in the aggregate for each recipient each year; or

13-30 (B) repeatedly committing to provide at a

13-31 specific time and location court reporting services for an attorney

13-32 in connection with a legal proceeding and unreasonably failing to

13-33 fulfill the commitment under the terms of that commitment;

13-34 (10) entering into or providing services under a

13-35 prohibited contract described by Section 154.115; or

13-36 (11) committing any other act that violates this

13-37 chapter or a rule or provision of the code of ethics adopted under

13-38 this subtitle~~, or~~

13-39 ~~[(12) other sufficient cause].~~

13-40 (b) Nothing in Subsection (a)(9)(A) ~~[(a)(9)]~~ shall be

13-41 construed to define providing value-added business services,

13-42 including long-term volume discounts, such as the pricing of

13-43 products and services, as prohibited gifts, incentives, or rewards.

13-44 (g) The commission by rule shall define the conditions under

13-45 which a shorthand reporting firm's or affiliate office's repeated

13-46 failure to fulfill a commitment to provide court reporting services

13-47 as described by Subsection (a)(9)(B) is considered unprofessional

13-48 conduct and grounds for disciplinary action.

13-49 (b) In developing rules under Section 154.111(g),

13-50 Government Code, as added by this section, the Judicial Branch

13-51 Certification Commission shall:

13-52 (1) establish a stakeholder work group to receive

13-53 input; and

13-54 (2) solicit comments from the Texas Court Reporters

13-55 Association, the Texas Deposition Reporters Association, court

13-56 reporting schools, and other interested parties.

13-57 SECTION 7.17. Section 154.113, Government Code, is amended

13-58 by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

13-59 (a-1) A person commits an offense if the person provides

13-60 shorthand reporting firm services in this state in violation of

13-61 Section 154.106. Each day of violation constitutes a separate

13-62 offense.

13-63 SECTION 7.18. Section 154.115(b), Government Code, is

13-64 amended to read as follows:

13-65 (b) Subsections (a)(2) and (3) do ~~[This section does]~~ not

13-66 apply to a contract for court reporting services for a court,

13-67 agency, or instrumentality of the United States or this state.

13-68 ARTICLE 8. JUVENILE BOARDS

13-69 SECTION 8.01. Section 152.0941, Human Resources Code, is

14-1 amended by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (d) to  
14-2 read as follows:

14-3 (c) Sections 152.0002, 152.0004, and 152.0005~~[, 152.0006,~~  
14-4 ~~152.0007, and 152.0008]~~ do not apply to the juvenile board of Goliad  
14-5 County.

14-6 (d) The juvenile board of Goliad County and the juvenile  
14-7 boards of one or more counties that are adjacent to or in close  
14-8 proximity to Goliad County may agree to operate together with  
14-9 respect to all matters, or with respect to certain matters  
14-10 specified by the juvenile boards. Juvenile boards operating  
14-11 together may appoint one fiscal officer to receive and disburse  
14-12 funds for the boards.

14-13 SECTION 8.02. Section 152.0991(a), Human Resources Code, is  
14-14 amended to read as follows:

14-15 (a) The juvenile board of Grimes County is composed of the  
14-16 county judge, ~~[and]~~ the district judges in Grimes County, and the  
14-17 judge of each county court at law in the county.

14-18 SECTION 8.03. Section 152.2411, Human Resources Code, is  
14-19 amended by amending Subsections (b) and (f) and adding Subsection  
14-20 (g) to read as follows:

14-21 (b) The juvenile board shall elect one of its members as  
14-22 ~~[court judge is the]~~ chairman of the board ~~[and its chief~~  
14-23 ~~administrative officer].~~

14-24 (f) Sections 152.0002, 152.0004, and 152.0005~~[, 152.0006,~~  
14-25 ~~152.0007, and 152.0008]~~ do not apply to the juvenile board of  
14-26 Victoria County.

14-27 (g) The juvenile board of Victoria County and the juvenile  
14-28 boards of one or more counties that are adjacent to or in close  
14-29 proximity to Victoria County may agree to operate together with  
14-30 respect to all matters, or with respect to certain matters  
14-31 specified by the juvenile boards. Juvenile boards operating  
14-32 together may appoint one fiscal officer to receive and disburse  
14-33 funds for the boards.

14-34 ARTICLE 9. THE OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION OF THE TEXAS JUDICIAL  
14-35 SYSTEM

14-36 SECTION 9.01. (a) Section 22A.002(d), Government Code, is  
14-37 amended to read as follows:

14-38 (d) The comptroller [Office of Court Administration of the  
14-39 Texas Judicial System] shall pay from funds appropriated to the  
14-40 comptroller's judiciary section the travel expenses and other  
14-41 incidental costs related to convening a special three-judge  
14-42 district court under this chapter.

14-43 (b) The change in law made by this section applies only to a  
14-44 travel expense or other incidental cost incurred on or after the  
14-45 effective date of this Act. A travel expense or other incidental  
14-46 cost incurred before the effective date of this Act is governed by  
14-47 the law in effect on the date the travel expense or other incidental  
14-48 cost was incurred, and the former law is continued in effect for  
14-49 that purpose.

14-50 SECTION 9.02. (a) Sections 51.607(a) and (b), Government  
14-51 Code, are amended to read as follows:

14-52 (a) Following each regular session of the legislature, the  
14-53 Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System  
14-54 ~~[comptroller]~~ shall identify each law enacted by that legislature,  
14-55 other than a law disapproved by the governor, that imposes or  
14-56 changes the amount of a court cost or fee collected by the clerk of a  
14-57 district, county, statutory county, municipal, or justice court  
14-58 from a party to a civil case or a defendant in a criminal case,  
14-59 including a filing or docketing fee, jury fee, cost on conviction,  
14-60 or fee or charge for services or to cover the expenses of a public  
14-61 official or agency. This subsection does not apply to attorney's  
14-62 fees, civil or criminal fines or penalties, or amounts charged,  
14-63 paid, or collected on behalf of another party to a proceeding other  
14-64 than the state in a criminal case, including restitution or  
14-65 damages.

14-66 (b) The Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial  
14-67 System [comptroller] shall prepare a list of each court cost or fee  
14-68 covered by Subsection (a) to be imposed or changed and shall publish  
14-69 the list in the Texas Register not later than August 1 after the end

15-1 of the regular session of the legislature at which the law imposing  
 15-2 or changing the amount of the cost or fee was enacted. The office  
 15-3 [~~comptroller~~] shall include with the list a statement describing  
 15-4 the operation of this section and stating the date the imposition or  
 15-5 change in the amount of the court cost or fee will take effect under  
 15-6 Subsection (c).

15-7 (b) The change in law made by this section applies only to a  
 15-8 law imposing or changing the amount of a court cost or fee that  
 15-9 takes effect on or after the effective date of this Act.

15-10 SECTION 9.03. Subchapter C, Chapter 72, Government Code, is  
 15-11 amended by adding Sections 72.033 and 72.034 to read as follows:

15-12 Sec. 72.033. LIST OF NEW OR AMENDED COURT COSTS AND FEES.  
 15-13 The office biennially shall prepare and publish a list of new or  
 15-14 amended court costs and fees as required by Section 51.607.

15-15 Sec. 72.034. PUBLIC INFORMATION INTERNET WEBSITE. (a) In  
 15-16 this section:

15-17 (1) "Public information" means citation, other  
 15-18 related public or legal notice that a person, including a party to a  
 15-19 cause of action, is required to publish under a statute or rule, and  
 15-20 any other information that the person submits for publication on  
 15-21 the public information Internet website to effectuate service of  
 15-22 citation by publication.

15-23 (2) "Public information Internet website" means the  
 15-24 official statewide Internet website developed and maintained by the  
 15-25 office under this section for the purpose of providing citation by  
 15-26 publication.

15-27 (b) The office shall develop and maintain a public  
 15-28 information Internet website that allows a person to easily publish  
 15-29 public information on the Internet website or the office to post  
 15-30 public information on the Internet website on receipt from the  
 15-31 person.

15-32 (c) The public information Internet website shall allow the  
 15-33 public to easily access, search, and sort the public information.

15-34 (d) The supreme court by rule shall establish procedures for  
 15-35 the submission of public information to the public information  
 15-36 Internet website by a person who is required to publish the  
 15-37 information.

15-38 SECTION 9.04. (a) The Texas Supreme Court shall adopt the  
 15-39 rules necessary to implement Section 72.034, Government Code, as  
 15-40 added by this article, not later than June 1, 2020.

15-41 (b) The Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial  
 15-42 System shall develop the public information Internet website for  
 15-43 the purposes of providing citation by publication as required by  
 15-44 Section 72.034, Government Code, as added by this article, not  
 15-45 later than June 1, 2020.

15-46 SECTION 9.05. Section 121.002, Government Code, is amended  
 15-47 by amending Subsections (c) and (d) and adding Subsections (f) and  
 15-48 (g) to read as follows:

15-49 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, a specialty court  
 15-50 program may not operate until the judge, magistrate, or  
 15-51 coordinator:

15-52 (1) provides to the Office of Court Administration of  
 15-53 the Texas Judicial System [~~criminal justice division of the~~  
 15-54 ~~governor's office~~]:

15-55 (A) written notice of the program;

15-56 (B) any resolution or other official declaration  
 15-57 under which the program was established; and

15-58 (C) a copy of the applicable strategic plan that  
 15-59 incorporates duties related to supervision that will be required  
 15-60 under the program; and

15-61 (2) receives from the office [~~division~~] written  
 15-62 verification of the program's compliance with Subdivision (1).

15-63 (d) A specialty court program shall:

15-64 (1) comply with all programmatic best practices  
 15-65 recommended by the Specialty Courts Advisory Council under Section  
 15-66 772.0061(b)(2) and approved by the Texas Judicial Council; and

15-67 (2) report to the criminal justice division of the  
 15-68 governor's office and the Texas Judicial Council any information  
 15-69 required by the division or council regarding the performance of



16-1 the program.

16-2 (f) The Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial  
 16-3 System shall:

16-4 (1) on request provide technical assistance to the  
 16-5 specialty court programs;

16-6 (2) coordinate with an entity funded by the criminal  
 16-7 justice division of the governor's office that provides services to  
 16-8 specialty courts;

16-9 (3) monitor the specialty court programs for  
 16-10 compliance with programmatic best practices as required by  
 16-11 Subsection (d); and

16-12 (4) notify the criminal justice division of the  
 16-13 governor's office if a specialty court program fails to comply with  
 16-14 programmatic best practices as required by Subsection (d).

16-15 (g) The Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial  
 16-16 System shall coordinate with and provide information to the  
 16-17 criminal justice division of the governor's office on request of  
 16-18 the division.

16-19 SECTION 9.06. (a) The Office of Court Administration of  
 16-20 the Texas Judicial System shall contract with the National Center  
 16-21 for State Courts to conduct a study of the caseloads of the district  
 16-22 and statutory county courts in this state. The study must  
 16-23 concentrate on the weighted caseload of each court, considering the  
 16-24 nature and complexity of the cases heard.

16-25 (b) Not later than December 1, 2020, the National Center for  
 16-26 State Courts shall report the results of the study required by  
 16-27 Subsection (a) of this section to the Office of Court  
 16-28 Administration of the Texas Judicial System. Not later than  
 16-29 January 1, 2021, the office shall file a report on those results  
 16-30 with the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the  
 16-31 house of representatives, and the chairs of the standing committees  
 16-32 of the senate and house of representatives with jurisdiction over  
 16-33 the judicial system.

16-34 ARTICLE 10. ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION AND DISPLAY OF  
 16-35 LEGAL DOCUMENTS

16-36 SECTION 10.01. Sections 9.160(a), (b), and (c), Business  
 16-37 Organizations Code, are amended to read as follows:

16-38 (a) Except as provided by Section 17.032, Civil Practice and  
 16-39 Remedies Code, if ~~if~~ process in an action under this subchapter is  
 16-40 returned not found, the attorney general shall publish notice on  
 16-41 the public information Internet website maintained as required by  
 16-42 Section 72.034, Government Code, and in a newspaper in the county in  
 16-43 which the registered office of the foreign filing entity in this  
 16-44 state is located. The notice must contain:

- 16-45 (1) a statement of the pendency of the action;
- 16-46 (2) the title of the court;
- 16-47 (3) the title of the action; and
- 16-48 (4) the earliest date on which default judgment may be  
 16-49 entered by the court.

16-50 (b) Notice under this section must be published on the  
 16-51 public information Internet website for at least two consecutive  
 16-52 weeks and in a newspaper at least once a week for two consecutive  
 16-53 weeks. Notice may be published ~~beginning~~ at any time after the  
 16-54 citation has been returned.

16-55 (c) The attorney general may include in a one published  
 16-56 notice the name of each foreign filing entity against which an  
 16-57 action for involuntary revocation is pending in the same court.

16-58 SECTION 10.02. Sections 11.310(a) and (b), Business  
 16-59 Organizations Code, are amended to read as follows:

16-60 (a) Except as provided by Section 17.032, Civil Practice and  
 16-61 Remedies Code, if ~~if~~ process in an action under this subchapter is  
 16-62 returned not found, the attorney general shall publish notice on  
 16-63 the public information Internet website maintained as required by  
 16-64 Section 72.034, Government Code, and in a newspaper in the county in  
 16-65 which the registered office of the filing entity in this state is  
 16-66 located. The notice must contain:

- 16-67 (1) a statement of the pendency of the action;
- 16-68 (2) the title of the court;
- 16-69 (3) the title of the action; and



17-1 (4) the earliest date on which default judgment may be  
 17-2 entered by the court.

17-3 (b) Notice under this section must be published on the  
 17-4 public information Internet website for at least two consecutive  
 17-5 weeks and in a newspaper at least once a week for two consecutive  
 17-6 weeks. Notice may be published [beginning] at any time after the  
 17-7 citation has been returned.

17-8 SECTION 10.03. Subchapter B, Chapter 17, Civil Practice and  
 17-9 Remedies Code, is amended by adding Section 17.032 to read as  
 17-10 follows:

17-11 Sec. 17.032. CITATION BY PUBLICATION.

17-12 (a) Notwithstanding any statute or rule requiring a person to  
 17-13 publish citation or notice on the public information Internet  
 17-14 website maintained as required by Section 72.034, Government Code,  
 17-15 and in a newspaper of general circulation, the person may publish  
 17-16 the citation or notice only on the public information Internet  
 17-17 website if:

17-18 (1) the person files a statement of inability to  
 17-19 afford payment of court costs under the Texas Rules of Civil  
 17-20 Procedure;

17-21 (2) the total cost of the required publication exceeds  
 17-22 the greater of \$200 each week or the amount set by the supreme court  
 17-23 under Subsection (b); or

17-24 (3) the county in which the publication of the  
 17-25 citation or notice is required does not have any newspaper  
 17-26 published, printed, or generally circulated in the county.

17-27 (b) The supreme court shall adjust for inflation the maximum  
 17-28 amount of publication costs established in Subsection (a)(2).

17-29 SECTION 10.04. Sections 51.054(a) and (b), Estates Code,  
 17-30 are amended to read as follows:

17-31 (a) Except as provided by Section 17.032, Civil Practice and  
 17-32 Remedies Code, citation [Citation] or notice to a person to be  
 17-33 served by publication shall be published one time on the public  
 17-34 information Internet website maintained as required by Section  
 17-35 72.034, Government Code, and in a newspaper of general circulation  
 17-36 in the county in which the proceeding is pending. The publication  
 17-37 must be made at least 10 days before the return day of the service,  
 17-38 excluding the date of publication.

17-39 (b) The date of service of citation or notice by publication  
 17-40 is the earlier of:

17-41 (1) the date the citation or notice is published on the  
 17-42 public information Internet website under Subsection (a); or

17-43 (2) the date of publication printed on the newspaper  
 17-44 in which the citation or notice is published.

17-45 SECTION 10.05. Section 51.103(b), Estates Code, is amended  
 17-46 to read as follows:

17-47 (b) Proof of service consists of:

17-48 (1) if the service is made by a sheriff or constable,  
 17-49 the return of service;

17-50 (2) if the service is made by a private person, the  
 17-51 person's affidavit;

17-52 (3) if the service is made by mail:

17-53 (A) the certificate of the county clerk making  
 17-54 the service, or the affidavit of the personal representative or  
 17-55 other person making the service, stating that the citation or  
 17-56 notice was mailed and the date of the mailing; and

17-57 (B) the return receipt attached to the  
 17-58 certificate or affidavit, as applicable, if the mailing was by  
 17-59 registered or certified mail and a receipt has been returned; and

17-60 (4) if the service is made by publication:

17-61 (A) an affidavit:

17-62 (i) made by the Office of Court  
 17-63 Administration of the Texas Judicial System or an employee of the  
 17-64 office;

17-65 (ii) that contains or to which is attached a  
 17-66 copy of the published citation or notice; and

17-67 (iii) that states the date of publication  
 17-68 on the public information Internet website maintained as required  
 17-69 by Section 72.034, Government Code; and

(B) [7] an affidavit:

(i) [~~A~~] made by the publisher of the newspaper in which the citation or notice was published or an employee of the publisher;

(ii) [~~B~~] that contains or to which is attached a copy of the published citation or notice; and

(iii) [~~C~~] that states the date of publication printed on the newspaper in which the citation or notice was published.

SECTION 10.06. Sections 1051.054(a) and (b), Estates Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Section 17.032, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, citation [Citation] or notice to a person to be served by publication shall be published one time on the public information Internet website maintained as required by Section 72.034, Government Code, and in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the proceeding is pending. The publication must be made at least 10 days before the return day of the citation or notice, excluding the date of publication.

(b) The date of service of citation or notice by publication is the earlier of:

(1) the date the citation or notice is published on the public information Internet website under Subsection (a); or

(2) the date of publication printed on the newspaper in which the citation or notice is published.

SECTION 10.07. Section 1051.153(b), Estates Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Proof of service consists of:

(1) if the service is made by a sheriff or constable, the return of service;

(2) if the service is made by a private person, the person's affidavit;

(3) if the service is made by mail:

(A) the certificate of the county clerk making the service, or the affidavit of the guardian or other person making the service that states that the citation or notice was mailed and the date of the mailing; and

(B) the return receipt attached to the certificate, if the mailing was by registered or certified mail and a receipt has been returned; and

(4) if the service is made by publication:

(A) an affidavit that:

(i) is made by the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System or an employee of the office;

(ii) contains or to which is attached a copy of the published citation or notice; and

(iii) states the date of publication on the public information Internet website maintained as required by Section 72.034, Government Code; and

(B) [7] an affidavit that:

(i) [~~A~~] is made by the publisher of the newspaper in which the citation or notice was published or an employee of the publisher;

(ii) [~~B~~] contains or to which is attached a copy of the published citation or notice; and

(iii) [~~C~~] states the date of publication printed on the newspaper in which the citation or notice was published.

SECTION 10.08. Section 3.305, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3.305. CITATION BY PUBLICATION. (a) Except as provided by Section 17.032, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, if [~~If~~] the residence of the respondent, other than a respondent reported to be a prisoner of war or missing on public service, is unknown, citation shall be published on the public information Internet website maintained as required by Section 72.034, Government Code, and in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county in which the petition was filed. [~~If that~~

19-1 ~~county has no newspaper of general circulation, citation shall be~~  
 19-2 ~~published in a newspaper of general circulation in an adjacent~~  
 19-3 ~~county or in the nearest county in which a newspaper of general~~  
 19-4 ~~circulation is published.]~~

19-5 (b) The notice shall be published on the public information  
 19-6 Internet website for at least two consecutive weeks before the  
 19-7 hearing and in a newspaper once a week for two consecutive weeks  
 19-8 before the hearing. Neither [~~but the first~~] notice may [~~not~~] be  
 19-9 initially published after the 20th day before the date set for the  
 19-10 hearing.

19-11 SECTION 10.09. Sections 102.010(a), (b), and (e), Family  
 19-12 Code, are amended to read as follows:

19-13 (a) Except as provided by Section 17.032, Civil Practice and  
 19-14 Remedies Code, citation [~~Citation~~] may be served [~~by publication as~~  
 19-15 ~~in other civil cases~~] to persons entitled to service of citation who  
 19-16 cannot be notified by personal service or registered or certified  
 19-17 mail and to persons whose names are unknown by publication on the  
 19-18 public information Internet website maintained as required by  
 19-19 Section 72.034, Government Code, and in a newspaper of general  
 19-20 circulation published in the county in which the petition was  
 19-21 filed.

19-22 (b) Citation by publication shall be published not later  
 19-23 than the 20th day before the date set for the hearing [~~one time~~].  
 19-24 [~~If the name of a person entitled to service of citation is unknown,~~  
 19-25 ~~the notice to be published shall be addressed to "All Whom It May~~  
 19-26 ~~Concern."~~] One or more causes to be heard on a certain day may be  
 19-27 included in one notice and hearings may be continued from time to  
 19-28 time without further notice.

19-29 (e) In a suit filed under Chapter 161 or 262 in which the  
 19-30 last name of the respondent is unknown, the court may order  
 19-31 substituted service of citation by publication, including  
 19-32 publication by posting the citation at the courthouse door for a  
 19-33 specified time, if the court finds and states in its order that the  
 19-34 method of substituted service is as likely as citation by  
 19-35 publication on the public information Internet website maintained  
 19-36 as required by Section 72.034, Government Code, or in a newspaper in  
 19-37 the manner described by Subsection (b) to give the respondent  
 19-38 actual notice of the suit. If the court orders that citation by  
 19-39 publication shall be completed by posting the citation at the  
 19-40 courthouse door for a specified time, service must be completed on,  
 19-41 and the answer date is computed from, the expiration date of the  
 19-42 posting period. If the court orders another method of substituted  
 19-43 service of citation by publication, service shall be completed as  
 19-44 directed by the court.

19-45 SECTION 10.10. Effective September 1, 2019, Subchapter D,  
 19-46 Chapter 51, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 51.3032  
 19-47 to read as follows:

19-48 Sec. 51.3032. ELECTRONIC DISPLAY OF OFFICIAL AND LEGAL  
 19-49 NOTICES BY DISTRICT CLERK. A district clerk may post an official  
 19-50 and legal notice by electronic display, instead of posting a  
 19-51 physical document, in the manner provided for a county clerk by  
 19-52 Section 82.051, Local Government Code.

19-53 SECTION 10.11. Section 715.006(c), Health and Safety Code,  
 19-54 is amended to read as follows:

19-55 (c) Except as provided by Section 17.032, Civil Practice and  
 19-56 Remedies Code, if [~~IF~~] the address or identity of a plot owner is  
 19-57 not known and cannot be ascertained with reasonable diligence,  
 19-58 service by publication shall be made on the plot owner by publishing  
 19-59 notice on the public information Internet website maintained as  
 19-60 required by Section 72.034, Government Code, and at least three  
 19-61 times in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which  
 19-62 the cemetery is located. [~~If there is not a newspaper of general~~  
 19-63 ~~circulation in the county in which the cemetery is located, the~~  
 19-64 ~~notice may be published in a newspaper of general circulation in an~~  
 19-65 ~~adjoining county.~~]

19-66 SECTION 10.12. Except as otherwise provided by this  
 19-67 article, this article takes effect June 1, 2020.

#### 19-68 ARTICLE 11. NOTARIZATION REQUIREMENTS

19-69 SECTION 11.01. Section 31.008(d), Family Code, is amended

20-1 to read as follows:

20-2 (d) ~~The [Notwithstanding Section 132.001, Civil Practice~~  
20-3 ~~and Remedies Code, the]~~ waiver must be sworn before a notary public  
20-4 who is not an attorney in the suit or conform to the requirements  
20-5 for an unsworn declaration under Section 132.001, Civil Practice  
20-6 and Remedies Code. This subsection does not apply if the party  
20-7 executing the waiver is incarcerated.

20-8 SECTION 11.02. Section 45.107(d), Family Code, is amended  
20-9 to read as follows:

20-10 (d) ~~The [Notwithstanding Section 132.001, Civil Practice~~  
20-11 ~~and Remedies Code, the]~~ waiver must be sworn before a notary public  
20-12 who is not an attorney in the suit or conform to the requirements  
20-13 for an unsworn declaration under Section 132.001, Civil Practice  
20-14 and Remedies Code. This subsection does not apply if the party  
20-15 executing the waiver is incarcerated.

20-16 ARTICLE 12. REPEALERS AND TRANSITIONS

20-17 SECTION 12.01. The following provisions of the Estates Code  
20-18 are repealed:

- 20-19 (1) Section 51.054(c); and
- 20-20 (2) Section 1051.054(c).

20-21 SECTION 12.02. The following provisions of the Government  
20-22 Code are repealed:

- 20-23 (1) Section 43.111(c);
- 20-24 (2) Subchapter C, Chapter 75;
- 20-25 (3) Section 832.001(b);
- 20-26 (4) Section 835.103;
- 20-27 (5) Section 837.001(b); and
- 20-28 (6) Section 840.104.

20-29 SECTION 12.03. The Office of Court Administration of the  
20-30 Texas Judicial System is required to implement a provision of this  
20-31 Act only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for  
20-32 that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money  
20-33 specifically for that purpose, the office may, but is not required  
20-34 to, implement a provision of this Act using other appropriations  
20-35 available for that purpose.

20-36 ARTICLE 13. EFFECTIVE DATE

20-37 SECTION 13.01. Except as otherwise provided by this Act,  
20-38 this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

20-39 \* \* \* \* \*