

1-1 By: Leach, Gerdes, Morales of Maverick H.B. No. 3474  
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Hughes)  
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2023;  
 1-4 May 5, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-5 Jurisprudence; May 15, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable  
 1-6 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0;  
 1-7 May 15, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-8 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9				
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 3474 By: Hughes

1-16 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-17 AN ACT

1-18 relating to the operation and administration of and practices and  
 1-19 procedures regarding proceedings in the judicial branch of state  
 1-20 government, including the service of process and delivery of  
 1-21 documents related to the proceedings, the administration of oaths,  
 1-22 and the management of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, and  
 1-23 the composition of certain juvenile boards; establishing a civil  
 1-24 penalty; increasing certain court costs; authorizing fees.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 ARTICLE 1. APPELLATE AND DISTRICT COURTS

1-27 SECTION 1.001. Subchapter D, Chapter 22, Government Code,  
 1-28 is amended by adding Section 22.3015 to read as follows:

1-29 Sec. 22.3015. EXPENSES OF APPELLATE COURT JUDGE OR JUSTICE.

1-30 (a) A justice of the supreme court, a judge of the court of criminal  
 1-31 appeals, or a justice of a court of appeals engaged in the discharge  
 1-32 of official duties in a county other than the justice's or judge's  
 1-33 county of residence is entitled to traveling and other necessary  
 1-34 expenses, as provided by Chapter 660.

1-35 (b) A justice of the supreme court, a judge of the court of  
 1-36 criminal appeals, or a justice of a court of appeals is entitled to  
 1-37 receive from the state the actual and necessary postage, telegraph,  
 1-38 and telephone expenses incurred in the discharge of official  
 1-39 duties.

1-40 (c) The expenses shall be paid by the state on a sworn  
 1-41 itemized account showing the expenses.

1-42 SECTION 1.002. (a) Effective January 1, 2025, Section  
 1-43 24.275, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-44 Sec. 24.275. 216TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (~~[GILLESPIE AND]~~ KERR  
 1-45 COUNTY ~~[COUNTIES]~~). The 216th Judicial District is composed of  
 1-46 ~~[Gillespie and]~~ Kerr County ~~[counties]~~.

1-47 (b) The local administrative district judge shall transfer  
 1-48 all cases from Gillespie County that are pending in the 216th  
 1-49 District Court on January 1, 2025, to the 499th District Court.

1-50 (c) When a case is transferred from a district court to  
 1-51 another district court as provided by Subsection (b) of this  
 1-52 section, all processes, writs, bonds, recognizances, or other  
 1-53 obligations issued from the transferring court are returnable to  
 1-54 the court to which the case is transferred as if originally issued  
 1-55 by that court. The obligees in all bonds and recognizances taken in  
 1-56 and for a court from which a case is transferred, and all witnesses  
 1-57 summoned to appear in a court from which a case is transferred, are  
 1-58 required to appear before the court to which a case is transferred  
 1-59 as if originally required to appear before the court to which the  
 1-60 transfer is made.

1-61 SECTION 1.003. Section 24.392, Government Code, is amended  
 1-62 by amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsection (d) to

2-1 read as follows:

2-2 (b) The 213th District Court shall give preference to  
2-3 criminal cases.

2-4 (c) The terms of the 213th District Court begin on the first  
2-5 Mondays in January, April, July, and October.

2-6 (d) [~~e~~] In addition to other jurisdiction provided by  
2-7 law, the 213th District Court has concurrent original jurisdiction  
2-8 with the county criminal courts in Tarrant County over misdemeanor  
2-9 cases.

2-10 SECTION 1.004. Section 24.516, Government Code, is amended  
2-11 by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read as  
2-12 follows:

2-13 (c) The terms of the 371st District Court begin on the first  
2-14 Mondays in January, April, July, and October.

2-15 (d) In addition to other jurisdiction provided by law, the  
2-16 371st District Court has concurrent original jurisdiction with the  
2-17 county criminal courts in Tarrant County over misdemeanor cases.

2-18 SECTION 1.005. Section 24.517, Government Code, is amended  
2-19 by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read as  
2-20 follows:

2-21 (c) The terms of the 372nd District Court begin on the first  
2-22 Mondays in January, April, July, and October.

2-23 (d) In addition to other jurisdiction provided by law, the  
2-24 372nd District Court has concurrent original jurisdiction with the  
2-25 county criminal courts in Tarrant County over misdemeanor cases.

2-26 SECTION 1.006. Section 24.541, Government Code, is amended  
2-27 by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read as  
2-28 follows:

2-29 (c) The terms of the 396th District Court begin on the first  
2-30 Mondays in January, April, July, and October.

2-31 (d) In addition to other jurisdiction provided by law, the  
2-32 396th District Court has concurrent original jurisdiction with the  
2-33 county criminal courts and the justice courts in Tarrant County  
2-34 over misdemeanor cases.

2-35 SECTION 1.007. (a) Section 24.553, Government Code, is  
2-36 amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

2-37 (c) The 411th District Court has concurrent jurisdiction in  
2-38 Polk County with the county court over all misdemeanor cases over  
2-39 which the county court has jurisdiction under the constitution and  
2-40 laws of this state. Cases in the concurrent misdemeanor  
2-41 jurisdiction may be filed in either court, and all cases of  
2-42 concurrent misdemeanor jurisdiction may be transferred between the  
2-43 411th District Court and the county court. A case may not be  
2-44 transferred from one court to another without the consent of the  
2-45 judge of the court to which it is transferred, and a case may not be  
2-46 transferred unless it is within the jurisdiction of the court to  
2-47 which it is transferred.

2-48 (b) Section 24.553, Government Code, as amended by this  
2-49 article, applies only to a case filed or proceeding commenced on or  
2-50 after September 1, 2023. A case filed or proceeding commenced  
2-51 before September 1, 2023, is governed by the law in effect on the  
2-52 date the case was filed or the proceeding was commenced, and the  
2-53 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

2-54 SECTION 1.008. Section 24.576, Government Code, is amended  
2-55 by adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

2-56 (c) The terms of the 432nd District Court begin on the first  
2-57 Mondays in January, April, July, and October.

2-58 (d) In addition to other jurisdiction provided by law, the  
2-59 432nd District Court has concurrent original jurisdiction with the  
2-60 county criminal courts in Tarrant County over misdemeanor cases.

2-61 SECTION 1.009. Section 24.591, Government Code, is amended  
2-62 by adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

2-63 (d) Notwithstanding Section 24.030, a district court in  
2-64 Kendall County may sit outside the county seat in a suitable  
2-65 facility designated by the Kendall County Commissioners Court as an  
2-66 auxiliary court facility, as provided by Section 292.031, Local  
2-67 Government Code.

2-68 (e) A district court in Kendall County sitting in an  
2-69 auxiliary court facility designated by the Kendall County  
2-70 Commissioners Court may hear motions, arguments, nonjury trials,  
2-71 and jury trials for all actions and any other matter before the

3-1 court and within the court's jurisdiction.  
3-2 SECTION 1.010. (a) Effective January 1, 2025, the heading  
3-3 to Section 24.596, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:  
3-4 Sec. 24.596. 452ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT (~~[EDWARDS, KIMBLE,~~  
3-5 MCCULLOCH, MASON, AND MENARD COUNTIES).  
3-6 (b) Effective January 1, 2025, Section 24.596(a),  
3-7 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:  
3-8 (a) The 452nd Judicial District is composed of ~~[Edwards,~~  
3-9 ~~Kimble,~~] McCulloch, Mason, and Menard Counties.  
3-10 (c) The local administrative district judge shall transfer  
3-11 all cases from Edwards and Kimble Counties that are pending in the  
3-12 452nd District Court on January 1, 2025, to the 499th District  
3-13 Court.  
3-14 (d) When a case is transferred from a district court to  
3-15 another district court as provided by Subsection (c) of this  
3-16 section, all processes, writs, bonds, recognizances, or other  
3-17 obligations issued from the transferring court are returnable to  
3-18 the court to which the case is transferred as if originally issued  
3-19 by that court. The obligees in all bonds and recognizances taken in  
3-20 and for a court from which a case is transferred, and all witnesses  
3-21 summoned to appear in a court from which a case is transferred, are  
3-22 required to appear before the court to which a case is transferred  
3-23 as if originally required to appear before the court to which the  
3-24 case is transferred.  
3-25 SECTION 1.011. (a) Effective January 1, 2025, Subchapter  
3-26 C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section  
3-27 24.600201 to read as follows:  
3-28 Sec. 24.600201. 477TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (DENTON COUNTY).  
3-29 The 477th Judicial District is composed of Denton County.  
3-30 (b) The 477th Judicial District is created on January 1,  
3-31 2025.  
3-32 SECTION 1.012. Section 24.60030, Government Code, is  
3-33 amended by adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:  
3-34 (c) The terms of the 485th District Court begin on the first  
3-35 Mondays in January, April, July, and October.  
3-36 (d) In addition to other jurisdiction provided by law, the  
3-37 485th District Court has concurrent original jurisdiction with the  
3-38 county criminal courts in Tarrant County over misdemeanor cases.  
3-39 SECTION 1.013. (a) Effective October 1, 2023, Subchapter  
3-40 C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections  
3-41 24.60031, 24.60032, and 24.60033 to read as follows:  
3-42 Sec. 24.60031. 486TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (HARRIS COUNTY).  
3-43 (a) The 486th Judicial District is composed of Harris County.  
3-44 (b) The 486th District Court shall give preference to  
3-45 criminal cases.  
3-46 Sec. 24.60032. 487TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (HARRIS COUNTY).  
3-47 (a) The 487th Judicial District is composed of Harris County.  
3-48 (b) The 487th District Court shall give preference to  
3-49 criminal cases.  
3-50 Sec. 24.60033. 488TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (HARRIS COUNTY).  
3-51 (a) The 488th Judicial District is composed of Harris County.  
3-52 (b) The 488th District Court shall give preference to  
3-53 criminal cases.  
3-54 (b) The 486th, 487th, and 488th Judicial Districts are  
3-55 created on October 1, 2023.  
3-56 SECTION 1.014. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government  
3-57 Code, is amended by adding Section 24.60034 to read as follows:  
3-58 Sec. 24.60034. 489TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (KAUFMAN COUNTY).  
3-59 The 489th Judicial District is composed of Kaufman County.  
3-60 (b) The 489th Judicial District is created on September 1,  
3-61 2023.  
3-62 SECTION 1.015. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government  
3-63 Code, is amended by adding Section 24.60038 to read as follows:  
3-64 Sec. 24.60038. 493RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT (COLLIN COUNTY).  
3-65 The 493rd Judicial District is composed of Collin County.  
3-66 (b) The 493rd Judicial District is created on September 1,  
3-67 2023.  
3-68 SECTION 1.016. (a) Effective September 1, 2024, Subchapter  
3-69 C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section  
3-70 24.60039 to read as follows:  
3-71 Sec. 24.60039. 494TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (COLLIN COUNTY).

4-1 The 494th Judicial District is composed of Collin County.  
4-2 (b) The 494th Judicial District is created on September 1,  
4-3 2024.  
4-4 SECTION 1.017. (a) Effective October 1, 2024, Subchapter  
4-5 C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections  
4-6 24.60040, 24.60041, and 24.60042 to read as follows:  
4-7 Sec. 24.60040. 495TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (HARRIS COUNTY).  
4-8 (a) The 495th Judicial District is composed of Harris County.  
4-9 (b) The 495th District Court shall give preference to  
4-10 criminal cases.  
4-11 Sec. 24.60041. 496TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (HARRIS COUNTY).  
4-12 (a) The 496th Judicial District is composed of Harris County.  
4-13 (b) The 496th District Court shall give preference to  
4-14 criminal cases.  
4-15 Sec. 24.60042. 497TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (HARRIS COUNTY).  
4-16 (a) The 497th Judicial District is composed of Harris County.  
4-17 (b) The 497th District Court shall give preference to  
4-18 criminal cases.  
4-19 (b) The 495th, 496th, and 497th Judicial Districts are  
4-20 created on October 1, 2024.  
4-21 SECTION 1.018. (a) Effective October 1, 2025, Subchapter  
4-22 C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section  
4-23 24.60043 to read as follows:  
4-24 Sec. 24.60043. 498TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (KENDALL COUNTY).  
4-25 (a) The 498th Judicial District is composed of Kendall County.  
4-26 (b) This section applies to all district courts in Kendall  
4-27 County.  
4-28 (c) In addition to the other jurisdiction provided by law,  
4-29 the 498th District Court has concurrent jurisdiction with the other  
4-30 district courts in Kendall County and with the County Court of  
4-31 Kendall County in all civil and criminal matters over which the  
4-32 county court has original or appellate jurisdiction, including  
4-33 probate matters and proceedings under Subtitle C, Title 7, Health  
4-34 and Safety Code.  
4-35 (d) All civil and criminal matters within the concurrent  
4-36 jurisdiction of the county and district courts must be filed with  
4-37 the county clerk in the county court. The county clerk serves as  
4-38 the clerk of the district court for those matters.  
4-39 (e) Notwithstanding Section 24.030, a district court in  
4-40 Kendall County may sit outside the county seat in a suitable  
4-41 facility designated by the Kendall County Commissioners Court as an  
4-42 auxiliary court facility, as provided by Section 292.031, Local  
4-43 Government Code.  
4-44 (f) A district court in Kendall County sitting in an  
4-45 auxiliary court facility designated by the Kendall County  
4-46 Commissioners Court may hear motions, arguments, nonjury trials,  
4-47 and jury trials for all actions and any other matter before the  
4-48 court and within the court's jurisdiction.  
4-49 (b) The 498th Judicial District is created on October 1,  
4-50 2025.  
4-51 SECTION 1.019. (a) Effective January 1, 2025, Subchapter  
4-52 C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section  
4-53 24.60044 to read as follows:  
4-54 Sec. 24.60044. 499TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (EDWARDS,  
4-55 GILLESPIE, AND KIMBLE COUNTIES). The 499th Judicial District is  
4-56 composed of Edwards, Gillespie, and Kimble Counties.  
4-57 (b) The 499th Judicial District is created on January 1,  
4-58 2025.  
4-59 SECTION 1.020. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government  
4-60 Code, is amended by adding Section 24.6009 to read as follows:  
4-61 Sec. 24.6009. 465TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (BASTROP COUNTY).  
4-62 The 465th Judicial District is composed of Bastrop County.  
4-63 (b) The 465th Judicial District is created on September 1,  
4-64 2023.  
4-65 SECTION 1.021. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government  
4-66 Code, is amended by adding Section 24.60095 to read as follows:  
4-67 Sec. 24.60095. 472ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT (BRAZOS COUNTY).  
4-68 (a) The 472nd Judicial District is composed of Brazos County.  
4-69 (b) The 472nd District Court has primary responsibility for  
4-70 cases involving civil matters, family law matters, and juvenile  
4-71 matters.

5-1 (b) The 472nd Judicial District is created on September 1,  
5-2 2023.

5-3 SECTION 1.022. (a) Section 24.910, Government Code, is  
5-4 amended by adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsections (b),  
5-5 (c), and (e) to read as follows:

5-6 (a-1) Subchapter C applies to the Tarrant County Criminal  
5-7 District Court No. 1.

5-8 (b) This section applies to the Tarrant County Criminal  
5-9 District Courts Nos. 1, 2, ~~and~~ 3, and 4.

5-10 (c) The criminal district courts have jurisdiction of  
5-11 criminal cases within the jurisdiction of a district court. The  
5-12 criminal district courts also have concurrent original  
5-13 jurisdiction with the county criminal courts in Tarrant County over  
5-14 misdemeanor cases. The criminal district courts do not have  
5-15 appellate misdemeanor jurisdiction.

5-16 (e) The judge of each criminal district court or county  
5-17 criminal court may, on motion of the judge or the criminal district  
5-18 attorney, transfer misdemeanor cases between the courts by an order  
5-19 entered in the minutes of the transferor ~~[transferring]~~ court. The  
5-20 clerk of the transferor ~~[transferring]~~ court shall certify the  
5-21 style and number of the case to the clerk of the transferee court  
5-22 ~~[to which it is transferred]~~ and include the papers of the case with  
5-23 the certification. The ~~[receiving]~~ clerk of the transferee court  
5-24 shall promptly docket the transferred case. The transferee  
5-25 ~~[receiving]~~ court shall dispose of the case as if it had been  
5-26 originally instituted in that court.

5-27 (b) Section 24.910(f), Government Code, is repealed.

5-28 SECTION 1.023. Section 24.911, Government Code, is amended  
5-29 by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

5-30 (a-1) Subchapter C applies to the Tarrant County Criminal  
5-31 District Court No. 2.

5-32 SECTION 1.024. Section 24.912, Government Code, is amended  
5-33 by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

5-34 (a-1) Subchapter C applies to the Tarrant County Criminal  
5-35 District Court No. 3.

5-36 SECTION 1.025. (a) The heading to Section 24.913,  
5-37 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

5-38 Sec. 24.913. TARRANT COUNTY CRIMINAL JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
5-39 NO. 4 ~~[OF TARRANT COUNTY]~~.

5-40 (b) Section 24.913, Government Code, is amended by amending  
5-41 Subsections (a) and (d) and adding Subsection (d-1) to read as  
5-42 follows:

5-43 (a) The Tarrant County Criminal Judicial District No. 4 ~~[of~~  
5-44 ~~Tarrant County]~~ is composed of Tarrant County.

5-45 (d) Subchapter C applies to the Tarrant County Criminal  
5-46 District Court No. 4 ~~[of Tarrant County]~~.

5-47 (d-1) Section 24.910, relating to the Tarrant County  
5-48 Criminal District Court No. 1, contains provisions applicable to  
5-49 both that court and the Tarrant County Criminal District Court  
5-50 No. 4.

5-51 (c) Sections 24.913(b), (c), and (e), Government Code, are  
5-52 repealed.

5-53 SECTION 1.026. Subchapter C, Chapter 72, Government Code,  
5-54 is amended by adding Section 72.039 to read as follows:

5-55 Sec. 72.039. DISTRICT COURT CASELOAD ANALYSIS. (a) In this  
5-56 section:

5-57 (1) "Clearance rate" has the meaning assigned by  
5-58 Section 72.083.

5-59 (2) "Judicial officer" means a district judge or an  
5-60 associate judge, master, magistrate, or referee who conducts  
5-61 proceedings for district courts.

5-62 (b) The office at least once every two years shall conduct a  
5-63 district court caseload analysis. The analysis must concentrate  
5-64 on the weighted caseload of the district courts in the 30 most  
5-65 populous counties in this state, considering the nature and  
5-66 complexity of cases heard by each court, and include the following  
5-67 information, disaggregated by county:

5-68 (1) the number of cases filed in each district court  
5-69 with jurisdiction in the county in each of the preceding five state  
5-70 fiscal years;

5-71 (2) the clearance rate for each district court with

6-1 jurisdiction in the county in each of the preceding five state  
6-2 fiscal years;  
6-3 (3) the number of estimated full-time equivalent  
6-4 judicial officers serving district courts in the county in the  
6-5 preceding state fiscal year;  
6-6 (4) the number of full-time equivalent judicial  
6-7 officers needed to serve the district courts in the county based on  
6-8 the most recent weighted caseload analysis;  
6-9 (5) the calendar year for creation of the most  
6-10 recently created district court in the county; and  
6-11 (6) any other relevant information identified by the  
6-12 director.

6-13 (c) Not later than October 1 of each even-numbered year, the  
6-14 office shall report the results of the analysis conducted under  
6-15 Subsection (b) to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and each  
6-16 member of the legislature.

6-17 SECTION 1.027. Section 659.012(b), Government Code, is  
6-18 amended to read as follows:

6-19 (b) A judge or justice for whom the amount of a state base  
6-20 salary is prescribed by Subsection (a) is entitled to an annual  
6-21 salary from the state in the amount equal to:

6-22 (1) 110 percent of the state base salary paid in  
6-23 accordance with Subsection (a) for the judge's or justice's  
6-24 position, beginning with the pay period that begins after the judge  
6-25 or justice accrues four years of:

6-26 (A) contributing service credit in the Judicial  
6-27 Retirement System of Texas Plan One or the Judicial Retirement  
6-28 System of Texas Plan Two;

6-29 (B) service as a judge or a full-time associate  
6-30 judge of a district court, statutory county court, multicounty  
6-31 statutory county court, or statutory probate court or as a district  
6-32 attorney, criminal district attorney, or county attorney; or

6-33 (C) combined contributing service credit and  
6-34 service as provided by Paragraphs (A) and (B); and

6-35 (2) 120 percent of the state base salary paid in  
6-36 accordance with Subsection (a) for the judge's or justice's  
6-37 position, beginning with the pay period that begins after the judge  
6-38 or justice accrues eight years of:

6-39 (A) contributing service credit in the Judicial  
6-40 Retirement System of Texas Plan One or the Judicial Retirement  
6-41 System of Texas Plan Two;

6-42 (B) service as a judge or a full-time associate  
6-43 judge of a district court, statutory county court, multicounty  
6-44 statutory county court, or statutory probate court or as a district  
6-45 attorney, criminal district attorney, or county attorney; or

6-46 (C) combined contributing service credit and  
6-47 service as provided by Paragraphs (A) and (B).

6-48 ARTICLE 2. STATUTORY COUNTY COURTS

6-49 SECTION 2.001. Section 25.0005(a), Government Code, is  
6-50 amended to read as follows:

6-51 (a) A statutory county court judge, other than a statutory  
6-52 county court judge who engages in the private practice of law, shall  
6-53 be paid a total annual salary set by the commissioners court at an  
6-54 amount that is not less than \$1,000 less than the sum of the annual  
6-55 salary as set by the General Appropriations Act in accordance with  
6-56 Section 659.012 paid to a district judge with comparable years of  
6-57 service as the statutory county court judge and any state or county  
6-58 contributions and supplements paid to a district judge in the  
6-59 county, other than contributions received as compensation under  
6-60 Section 74.051. A statutory county court judge's total annual  
6-61 salary includes any state or county contributions and supplements  
6-62 paid to the judge. For purposes of this subsection, the years of  
6-63 service of a statutory county court judge include any years of  
6-64 service as:

6-65 (1) an appellate court, district court, multicounty  
6-66 statutory county court, or statutory probate court justice or  
6-67 judge; or

6-68 (2) a district attorney, criminal district attorney,  
6-69 or county attorney.

6-70 SECTION 2.002. Section 25.0023(a), Government Code, is  
6-71 amended to read as follows:

7-1 (a) The commissioners court shall set the total annual  
7-2 salary of each judge of a statutory probate court at an amount that  
7-3 is at least equal to the sum of the annual salary as set by the  
7-4 General Appropriations Act in accordance with Section 659.012 paid  
7-5 to a district judge with comparable years of service as the  
7-6 statutory probate court judge and any state or county contributions  
7-7 and supplements paid to a district judge in the county, other than  
7-8 contributions received as compensation under Section 74.051. A  
7-9 statutory probate court judge's total annual salary includes any  
7-10 state or county contributions and supplements paid to the judge,  
7-11 other than contributions paid under Section 25.0022(e). For  
7-12 purposes of this subsection, the years of service of a statutory  
7-13 probate court judge include any years of service as:

7-14 (1) an appellate court, district court, multicounty  
7-15 statutory county court, or statutory county court justice or judge;  
7-16 or

7-17 (2) a district attorney, criminal district attorney,  
7-18 or county attorney.

7-19 SECTION 2.003. (a) Sections 25.0062(a) and (b), Government  
7-20 Code, are amended to read as follows:

7-21 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section  
7-22 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law of Aransas County has  
7-23 concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:

7-24 (1) family law cases and proceedings; ~~and~~

7-25 (2) felony cases to conduct arraignments, conduct  
7-26 pretrial hearings, and accept guilty pleas; and

7-27 (3) civil cases in which the matter in controversy  
7-28 exceeds the maximum amount provided by Section 25.0003.

7-29 (b) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at  
7-30 law in felony cases, in ~~and~~ family law cases and proceedings, and  
7-31 in civil cases in which the matter in controversy exceeds \$250,000.

7-32 The ~~and the~~ county clerk serves as clerk of a county court at law  
7-33 in all other cases. The district clerk shall establish a separate  
7-34 docket for a county court at law. The commissioners court shall  
7-35 provide the deputy clerks, bailiffs, and other personnel necessary  
7-36 to operate a county court at law.

7-37 (b) Sections 25.0062(a) and (b), Government Code, as  
7-38 amended by this section, apply only to a case filed or proceeding  
7-39 commenced on or after September 1, 2023. A case filed or proceeding  
7-40 commenced before September 1, 2023, is governed by the law in effect  
7-41 on the date the case was filed or the proceeding was commenced, and  
7-42 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

7-43 SECTION 2.004. (a) Section 25.0171(c), Government Code, is  
7-44 amended to read as follows:

7-45 (c) Bexar County also has the following statutory probate  
7-46 courts:

7-47 (1) Probate Court No. 1 of Bexar County, Texas; ~~and~~

7-48 (2) Probate Court No. 2 of Bexar County, Texas; and

7-49 (3) Probate Court No. 3 of Bexar County, Texas.

7-50 (b) The Probate Court No. 3 of Bexar County, Texas, is  
7-51 created on September 1, 2023.

7-52 SECTION 2.005. (a) Section 25.0173, Government Code, is  
7-53 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (o) and adding Subsection  
7-54 (p) to read as follows:

7-55 (a) A statutory probate court in Bexar County has the  
7-56 general jurisdiction of a probate court as provided by Section  
7-57 25.0021. Probate Courts Nos. 1, ~~and~~ 2, and 3 have eminent domain  
7-58 jurisdiction and jurisdiction to decide the issue of title to real  
7-59 or personal property. Notwithstanding the local rules adopted  
7-60 under Section 74.093, the county clerk shall docket all eminent  
7-61 domain cases equally among ~~in~~ Probate Courts Nos. ~~[Court No.] 1,~~  
7-62 ~~[and Probate Court No.] 2, and 3.~~

7-63 (o) Notwithstanding the local rules adopted under Section  
7-64 74.093, the county clerk shall:

7-65 (1) docket all mental health matters in Probate Court  
7-66 No. 1; and

7-67 (2) assign equally among the statutory probate courts  
7-68 in Bexar County and ~~shall~~ docket at random all other matters and  
7-69 proceedings filed in the statutory probate courts in Bexar County  
7-70 ~~[even-numbered probate cases in Probate Court No. 2 and all~~  
7-71 ~~odd-numbered probate cases in Probate Court No. 1].~~

8-1 (p) Notwithstanding Section 25.0022(h), in the absence,  
8-2 disqualification, or incapacity of a statutory probate judge in  
8-3 Bexar County or on the judge's request, the statutory probate  
8-4 judges in Bexar County may sit and act for each other in any probate  
8-5 matter or proceeding. A statutory probate judge in Bexar County  
8-6 may:

8-7 (1) hear and determine any matter or proceeding  
8-8 pending in another statutory probate court in Bexar County; or

8-9 (2) enter any order in the matter or proceeding that  
8-10 the judge of the other statutory probate court in Bexar County may  
8-11 enter.

8-12 (b) Section 25.0173(j), Government Code, is repealed.

8-13 (c) Notwithstanding Section 25.0173, Government Code, as  
8-14 amended by this section, the county clerk for Bexar County shall  
8-15 assign to Probate Court No. 3 of Bexar County, Texas, one-third of  
8-16 all cases pending on September 1, 2023, in Probate Court No. 1 of  
8-17 Bexar County, Texas, and Probate Court No. 2 of Bexar County,  
8-18 Texas, that were filed before January 1, 2020.

8-19 SECTION 2.006. (a) Section 25.0331, Government Code, is  
8-20 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to  
8-21 read as follows:

8-22 (a) Cameron County has the following statutory county  
8-23 courts:

8-24 (1) County Court at Law No. 1 of Cameron County;

8-25 (2) County Court at Law No. 2 of Cameron County;

8-26 (3) County Court at Law No. 3 of Cameron County; and

8-27 (4) ~~County Court at Law No. 4 of Cameron County; and~~

8-28 ~~County Court at Law No. 5 of Cameron County.~~

8-29 (a-1) Cameron County has one statutory probate court, the  
8-30 Probate Court No. 1 of Cameron County.

8-31 (b) The County Court at Law No. 4 of Cameron County is  
8-32 redesignated as the Probate Court No. 1 of Cameron County effective  
8-33 September 1, 2023.

8-34 SECTION 2.007. (a) Section 25.0332(a), Government Code, is  
8-35 amended to read as follows:

8-36 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section  
8-37 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in Cameron County has~~+~~

8-38 ~~[(1) concurrent with the county court, the probate~~  
8-39 ~~jurisdiction provided by general law for county courts; and~~

8-40 ~~[(2)] concurrent jurisdiction with the district court~~  
8-41 ~~in civil cases in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$500 but~~  
8-42 ~~does not exceed \$1 million, excluding interest.~~

8-43 (b) Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Government Code, is amended by  
8-44 adding Section 25.0333 to read as follows:

8-45 Sec. 25.0333. CAMERON COUNTY PROBATE COURT PROVISIONS. (a)  
8-46 A statutory probate court in Cameron County has the jurisdiction of  
8-47 a probate court as provided by Section 25.0021.

8-48 (b) A statutory probate court in Cameron County has  
8-49 jurisdiction over mental health cases diverted from the criminal  
8-50 justice system in the county.

8-51 (c) Section 25.0332(b), Government Code, is repealed.

8-52 (d) The judge of the County Court at Law No. 4 of Cameron  
8-53 County shall transfer all active cases over which the court loses  
8-54 jurisdiction under this section and that are pending in the court on  
8-55 September 1, 2023, to a district court, county court at law, or  
8-56 county court in the county with jurisdiction over the case.

8-57 (e) The local administrative statutory county court judge  
8-58 shall transfer any active probate matter that is pending in a  
8-59 statutory county court in Cameron County on September 1, 2023, to  
8-60 Probate Court No. 1 of Cameron County.

8-61 (f) When a case is transferred as provided by Subsection (d)  
8-62 or (e) of this section, all processes, writs, bonds, recognizances,  
8-63 or other obligations issued from the transferring court are  
8-64 returnable to the court to which the case is transferred as if  
8-65 originally issued by that court. The obligees on all bonds and  
8-66 recognizances taken in and for a court from which a case is  
8-67 transferred, and all witnesses summoned to appear in a court from  
8-68 which a case is transferred, are required to appear before the court  
8-69 to which a case is transferred as if originally required to appear  
8-70 before that court.

8-71 SECTION 2.008. (a) Section 25.0592(1), Government Code, is

9-1 amended to read as follows:

9-2 (1) Sections 25.0006 and 25.0007(b) [~~25.0007~~] do not apply  
9-3 to a county court at law in Dallas County.

9-4 (b) Section 25.0592(1), Government Code, as amended by this  
9-5 section, applies only to a jury impaneled on or after September 1,  
9-6 2023.

9-7 SECTION 2.009. Section 25.0732, Government Code, is amended  
9-8 by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

9-9 (c) The County Criminal Court at Law No. 2 of El Paso  
9-10 County, Texas, is designated to conduct the DWI Drug Court  
9-11 Intervention and Treatment Program of El Paso County as a drug court  
9-12 program under Chapter 123 for persons arrested for, charged with,  
9-13 or convicted of an offense involving the operation of a motor  
9-14 vehicle while intoxicated.

9-15 SECTION 2.010. Section 25.0932, Government Code, is amended  
9-16 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (b) to read as  
9-17 follows:

9-18 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section  
9-19 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in Grayson County has:

9-20 (1) original concurrent jurisdiction with the justice  
9-21 court in all civil and criminal matters over which the justice court  
9-22 has jurisdiction; and

9-23 (2) concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in  
9-24 family law cases and proceedings.

9-25 (b) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at  
9-26 law in family law cases and proceedings, and the county clerk serves  
9-27 as clerk of the court in all other cases.

9-28 SECTION 2.011. (a) Section 25.1031(c), Government Code, is  
9-29 amended to read as follows:

9-30 (c) Harris County has the following statutory probate  
9-31 courts:

- 9-32 (1) Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas;
- 9-33 (2) Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas;
- 9-34 (3) Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas; ~~and~~
- 9-35 (4) Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas; and
- 9-36 (5) Probate Court No. 5 of Harris County, Texas.

9-37 (b) Section 25.1034(j), Government Code, is repealed.

9-38 (c) The Probate Court No. 5 of Harris County, Texas, is  
9-39 created on September 1, 2023.

9-40 SECTION 2.012. Sections 25.1331 and 25.1332, Government  
9-41 Code, are repealed.

9-42 SECTION 2.013. Sections 25.1572(a), (d), and (e),  
9-43 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

9-44 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section  
9-45 25.0003 and other law and except as limited by Subsection (b), a  
9-46 county court at law in McLennan County has:

9-47 (1) concurrent jurisdiction with the district courts  
9-48 in state jail, third degree, and second degree felony cases and  
9-49 family law cases on assignment from a district judge presiding in  
9-50 McLennan County and acceptance of the assignment by the judge of the  
9-51 county court at law to:

- 9-52 (A) conduct arraignments;
- 9-53 (B) conduct pretrial hearings;
- 9-54 (C) accept guilty pleas and conduct sentencing;
- 9-55 (D) conduct jury trials and nonjury trials;
- 9-56 (E) conduct probation revocation hearings;
- 9-57 (F) conduct post-trial proceedings; and
- 9-58 (G) conduct family law cases and proceedings; and

9-59 (2) jurisdiction in:

- 9-60 (A) Class A and Class B misdemeanor cases;
- 9-61 (B) probate proceedings;
- 9-62 (C) eminent domain;
- 9-63 (D) appeals from the justice and municipal

9-64 courts; and

9-65 (E) disputes ancillary to probate, eminent  
9-66 domain, condemnation, or landlord and tenant matters relating to  
9-67 the adjudication and determination of land titles and trusts,  
9-68 whether testamentary, inter vivos, constructive, resulting, or any  
9-69 other class or type of trust, regardless of the amount in  
9-70 controversy or the remedy sought [~~to conduct arraignments, conduct~~  
9-71 pretrial hearings, accept guilty pleas, and conduct probation

10-1 ~~revocation hearings in felony cases].~~

10-2 (d) A judge of a county court at law shall be paid a total  
10-3 ~~[an] annual [base] salary set by the commissioners court in an~~  
10-4 ~~amount not less than \$1,000 less than the annual [base] salary~~  
10-5 ~~received by [the state pays to] a district judge [as set by the~~  
10-6 ~~General Appropriations Act in accordance with Section 659.012]~~ with  
10-7 ~~equivalent years of service as a [the] judge, as provided under~~  
10-8 ~~Section 25.0005, to be paid out of the county treasury by the~~  
10-9 ~~commissioners court. [A county court at law judge's and a district~~  
10-10 ~~judge's annual base salaries do not include contributions and~~  
10-11 ~~supplements paid by the county.]~~

10-12 (e) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at  
10-13 law in cases instituted in the district courts in which the county  
10-14 courts at law have [matters of] concurrent jurisdiction with the  
10-15 district court. The county clerk serves as the clerk of a county  
10-16 court at law in all other matters. Each clerk shall establish a  
10-17 separate docket for a county court at law.

10-18 SECTION 2.014. (a) Effective October 1, 2023, Section  
10-19 25.1721, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

10-20 Sec. 25.1721. MONTGOMERY COUNTY. (a) Montgomery County  
10-21 has the following statutory county courts:

- 10-22 (1) County Court at Law No. 1 of Montgomery County;
- 10-23 (2) ~~[County Court at Law No. 2 of Montgomery County,~~
- 10-24 ~~[-3-]]~~ County Court at Law No. 3 of Montgomery County;
- 10-25 (3) ~~[-4-]]~~ County Court at Law No. 4 of Montgomery
- 10-26 County;
- 10-27 (4) ~~[-5-]]~~ County Court at Law No. 5 of Montgomery
- 10-28 County; and
- 10-29 (5) ~~[-6-]]~~ County Court at Law No. 6 of Montgomery
- 10-30 County.

10-31 (b) Montgomery County has one statutory probate court, the  
10-32 Probate Court No. 1 of Montgomery County.

10-33 (b) The County Court at Law No. 2 of Montgomery County is  
10-34 redesignated as the Probate Court No. 1 of Montgomery County  
10-35 effective October 1, 2023.

10-36 (c) Effective October 1, 2023, the judge of the County Court  
10-37 at Law No. 2 of Montgomery County is the judge of the Probate Court  
10-38 No. 1 of Montgomery County. Unless otherwise removed, the judge  
10-39 serves until December 31, 2026, and until the judge's successor is  
10-40 elected and has qualified. In the 2026 general election and every  
10-41 four years following that election, the qualified voters of the  
10-42 county shall elect a judge of the Probate Court No. 1 of Montgomery  
10-43 County for a regular term of four years.

10-44 SECTION 2.015. (a) Effective October 1, 2023, Subchapter  
10-45 C, Chapter 25, Government Code, is amended by adding Section  
10-46 25.1723 to read as follows:

10-47 Sec. 25.1723. MONTGOMERY COUNTY PROBATE COURT PROVISIONS.

10-48 (a) In this section, "remote proceeding" means a proceeding before  
10-49 a court in which one or more of the participants, including a judge,  
10-50 party, attorney, witness, or other individual, attends the  
10-51 proceeding remotely through the use of technology.

10-52 (b) A statutory probate court of Montgomery County has  
10-53 concurrent jurisdiction with the district court, regardless of the  
10-54 amount in controversy or the relief sought, in:

- 10-55 (1) disputes relating to the creation of a
- 10-56 constructive trust;
- 10-57 (2) declaratory judgment actions;
- 10-58 (3) actions in which the only relief sought is a writ
- 10-59 of injunction; and
- 10-60 (4) actions to appoint a receiver under any law,
- 10-61 including Section 11.402, Business Organizations Code.

10-62 (c) A statutory probate court of Montgomery County has  
10-63 eminent domain jurisdiction, including the jurisdiction provided  
10-64 to a district court under Sections 21.002 and 21.003, Property  
10-65 Code, regardless of the amount in controversy or the remedy sought.  
10-66 All eminent domain actions, cases, matters, or proceedings arising  
10-67 under Chapter 21, Property Code, or under Section 251.101,  
10-68 Transportation Code, shall be filed and docketed in a statutory  
10-69 probate court.

10-70 (d) A statutory probate court of Montgomery County may  
10-71 conduct docket matters at any location in the county as the

11-1 statutory probate court judge considers necessary for the  
 11-2 protection of wards or mental health respondents or as otherwise  
 11-3 provided by law.

11-4 (e) A judge of a statutory probate court in Montgomery  
 11-5 County and a judge of a district court or statutory county court in  
 11-6 Montgomery County may exchange benches and may sit and act for each  
 11-7 other in any matter pending before the court.

11-8 (f) The county clerk of Montgomery County serves as clerk of  
 11-9 a statutory probate court.

11-10 (g) A statutory probate court of Montgomery County may  
 11-11 appoint as a court investigator an employee of the court or another  
 11-12 department in the county to comply with Section 25.0025.

11-13 (h) In addition to the uses authorized by Section 135.159,  
 11-14 Local Government Code, Montgomery County may use the fees collected  
 11-15 under Section 135.102, Local Government Code, and deposited into  
 11-16 the judicial education and support fund to provide staff for the  
 11-17 statutory probate courts and for court-related purposes for the  
 11-18 support of the statutory probate courts.

11-19 (b) The judge of the County Court at Law No. 2 of Montgomery  
 11-20 County shall transfer all active cases over which the court loses  
 11-21 jurisdiction under this section and that are pending in the court on  
 11-22 October 1, 2023, to a district court, county court at law, or county  
 11-23 court in the county with jurisdiction over the case.

11-24 (c) The local administrative statutory county court judge  
 11-25 shall transfer any active probate matter that is pending in a  
 11-26 statutory county court in Montgomery County on October 1, 2023, to  
 11-27 Probate Court No. 1 of Montgomery County.

11-28 (d) When a case is transferred as provided by Subsection (b)  
 11-29 or (c) of this section, all processes, writs, bonds, recognizances,  
 11-30 or other obligations issued from the transferring court are  
 11-31 returnable to the court to which the case is transferred as if  
 11-32 originally issued by that court. The obligees on all bonds and  
 11-33 recognizances taken in and for a court from which a case is  
 11-34 transferred, and all witnesses summoned to appear in a court from  
 11-35 which a case is transferred, are required to appear before the court  
 11-36 to which a case is transferred as if originally required to appear  
 11-37 before that court.

11-38 SECTION 2.016. (a) Sections 25.1892(a) and (e), Government  
 11-39 Code, are amended to read as follows:

11-40 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section  
 11-41 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in Polk County has  
 11-42 concurrent ~~[civil]~~ jurisdiction with the district court in:

11-43 (1) cases and proceedings involving the collection of  
 11-44 delinquent taxes, penalties, interest, and costs and the  
 11-45 foreclosure of tax liens; ~~[and]~~

11-46 (2) family law cases and proceedings; and

11-47 (3) felony cases to conduct arraignments and pre-trial  
 11-48 hearings and to accept guilty pleas.

11-49 (e) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at  
 11-50 law in cases of concurrent jurisdiction with the district court  
 11-51 ~~[enumerated in Subsection (a)(2)]~~, and the county clerk serves as  
 11-52 clerk in all other cases. ~~[The district clerk shall establish a~~  
 11-53 ~~separate docket for a county court at law.]~~

11-54 (b) Sections 25.1892(a) and (e), Government Code, as  
 11-55 amended by this article, apply only to a case filed or proceeding  
 11-56 commenced on or after September 1, 2023. A case filed or proceeding  
 11-57 commenced before September 1, 2023, is governed by the law in effect  
 11-58 on the date the case was filed or the proceeding was commenced, and  
 11-59 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

11-60 SECTION 2.017. (a) Sections 25.2223(a), (i), (j), (j-2),  
 11-61 and (l), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

11-62 (a) A county criminal court in Tarrant County has  
 11-63 jurisdiction over all criminal matters and causes, original and  
 11-64 appellate, prescribed by law for county courts, but does not have  
 11-65 civil jurisdiction. In addition to the jurisdiction provided by  
 11-66 Section 25.0003 and other law, a county criminal court in Tarrant  
 11-67 County has concurrent original jurisdiction of criminal cases with  
 11-68 a district court other than felony cases involving capital  
 11-69 murder. The County Criminal Courts Nos. 9 [5] and 10 of Tarrant  
 11-70 County also have concurrent jurisdiction within the county of all  
 11-71 appeals from criminal convictions under the laws of this state and

12-1 the municipal ordinances of the municipalities located in Tarrant  
12-2 County that are appealed from the justice courts and municipal  
12-3 courts in the county. [~~The County Criminal Courts Nos. 5, 7, 8, 9,  
12-4 and 10 of Tarrant County also have concurrent jurisdiction with the  
12-5 district court in felony cases to conduct arraignments, conduct  
12-6 pretrial hearings, and accept guilty pleas.~~]

12-7 (i) The official court reporter of a county criminal court  
12-8 is entitled to the same fees and salary as a district court reporter  
12-9 and shall perform the same duties and take the oath of office as  
12-10 provided by law for district court reporters. [~~The official court  
12-11 reporter for the County Criminal Court No. 1 or 3 of Tarrant County  
12-12 is not required to take testimony in cases in which neither a party  
12-13 nor the judge demands it.~~]

12-14 (j) At least two bailiffs shall be assigned regularly to  
12-15 each county criminal court in [~~the County Criminal Court No. 1 of  
12-16 Tarrant County and the County Criminal Court No. 2 of~~] Tarrant  
12-17 County. Except as provided by Subsection (j-2), each judge [~~the  
12-18 judges~~] of a county criminal court [~~the County Criminal Courts Nos.  
12-19 1 and 2 of Tarrant County~~] shall [~~each~~] appoint one officer to act  
12-20 as bailiff of the judge's court, and the sheriff of Tarrant County  
12-21 shall appoint a bailiff for each court as prescribed by law. The  
12-22 bailiffs serve at the pleasure of the court and shall perform the  
12-23 duties required by the judge of the court to which the bailiffs are  
12-24 assigned.

12-25 (j-2) The judge of a county criminal court [~~listed in  
12-26 Subsection (j) or (j-1)~~] may authorize the sheriff to appoint all  
12-27 bailiffs in the judge's court. If the sheriff is authorized by a  
12-28 judge to make the judge's appointment under this subsection, the  
12-29 sheriff shall appoint at least two officers to act as bailiffs for  
12-30 the judge's court. A bailiff appointed under this subsection  
12-31 serves at the pleasure of the court and shall perform the duties  
12-32 required by the judge of the court to which the bailiff is assigned.

12-33 (l) The County Criminal Courts Nos. [~~Court No.~~] 5 and 6 of  
12-34 Tarrant County [~~and the County Criminal Court No. 6 of Tarrant  
12-35 County~~] shall give preference to cases brought under Title 5, Penal  
12-36 Code, involving family violence as defined by Section 71.004,  
12-37 Family Code, and cases brought under Sections 25.07, 25.072, and  
12-38 42.07(a)(2) [~~42.072~~], Penal Code.

12-39 (b) Sections 25.2223(b) and (j-1), Government Code, are  
12-40 repealed.

12-41 SECTION 2.018. (a) Effective October 1, 2023, Section  
12-42 25.2291(c), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

12-43 (c) Travis County has the following [~~one~~] statutory probate  
12-44 courts:

- 12-45 (1) [~~court, the~~] Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County;
- 12-46 and
- 12-47 (2) Probate Court No. 2 of Travis County.

12-48 (b) The Probate Court No. 2 of Travis County is created on  
12-49 October 1, 2023.

12-50 SECTION 2.019. (a) Effective October 1, 2023, Section  
12-51 25.2293, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d),  
12-52 (e), (h), and (k) to read as follows:

12-53 (d) Probate Court No. 2 of Travis County has primary  
12-54 responsibility for mental health matters.

12-55 (e) The county clerk shall docket:

- 12-56 (1) all mental health matters in Probate Court No. 2,  
12-57 notwithstanding the local rules adopted under Section 74.093;
- 12-58 (2) all odd-numbered probate, guardianship, and trust  
12-59 cases, and related cases, as defined by the local rules, in Probate  
12-60 Court No. 1; and
- 12-61 (3) all even-numbered probate, guardianship, and  
12-62 trust cases, and related cases, as defined by the local rules, in  
12-63 Probate Court No. 2.

12-64 (h) The county clerk shall appoint a deputy clerk for each  
12-65 statutory probate court. A deputy clerk serves at the pleasure of  
12-66 the judge of the court to which the deputy clerk is assigned. A  
12-67 deputy clerk must take the constitutional oath of office, and the  
12-68 county clerk may require the deputy clerk to furnish a bond in an  
12-69 amount, conditioned and payable, as required by law. A deputy clerk  
12-70 acts in the name of the county clerk and may perform any other  
12-71 service required by the judge of a statutory probate court. A

13-1 deputy clerk shall attend all sessions of the court to which the  
 13-2 deputy clerk is assigned.  
 13-3 (k) In case of the absence, disqualification, or incapacity  
 13-4 of a judge of a statutory probate court of Travis County, or for any  
 13-5 other reason, the judges of the statutory probate courts of Travis  
 13-6 County may sit and act for each other in any matter or proceeding  
 13-7 pending in either court.  
 13-8 (b) Effective October 1, 2023, Section 25.2293(m),  
 13-9 Government Code, is repealed.  
 13-10 SECTION 2.020. (a) Section 25.2391, Government Code, is  
 13-11 amended to read as follows:  
 13-12 Sec. 25.2391. WALLER COUNTY. (a) Waller County has the  
 13-13 following [one] statutory county courts:  
 13-14 (1) [court, the] County Court at Law No. 1 of Waller  
 13-15 County; and  
 13-16 (2) County Court at Law No. 2 of Waller County.  
 13-17 (b) The county courts at Law [County Court at Law] of Waller  
 13-18 County sit [sits] in Hempstead.  
 13-19 (b) On September 1, 2023, the County Court at Law of Waller  
 13-20 County is redesignated County Court at Law No. 1 of Waller County.  
 13-21 (c) The judge of the County Court at Law of Waller County is  
 13-22 the judge of County Court at Law No. 1 of Waller County.  
 13-23 (d) This section does not affect the term of office of a  
 13-24 judge of a court redesignated by this section. The judge, unless  
 13-25 otherwise removed as provided by law, continues to serve for the  
 13-26 term for which the judge was elected.  
 13-27 (e) The County Court at Law No. 2 of Waller County is created  
 13-28 on September 1, 2023.  
 13-29 SECTION 2.021. Section 25.2392, Government Code, is amended  
 13-30 by adding Subsection (b) and amending Subsection (g) to read as  
 13-31 follows:  
 13-32 (b) County Court at Law No. 2 has the jurisdiction provided  
 13-33 by the constitution and by general law for district courts,  
 13-34 including jurisdiction in felony criminal cases.  
 13-35 (g) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at  
 13-36 law in family law cases and proceedings and as clerk of County Court  
 13-37 at Law No. 2 in cases and proceedings in which the court has  
 13-38 concurrent jurisdiction with the district courts as provided by the  
 13-39 constitution and general law, including jurisdiction in felony  
 13-40 criminal cases. The[, and the] county clerk serves as clerk of a  
 13-41 county [the] court at law in all other cases and proceedings. The  
 13-42 commissioners court may employ as many deputy sheriffs and bailiffs  
 13-43 as are necessary to serve the court.  
 13-44 SECTION 2.022. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Government  
 13-45 Code, is amended by adding Section 25.2491 to read as follows:  
 13-46 Sec. 25.2491. WILSON COUNTY. Wilson County has one  
 13-47 statutory county court, the County Court at Law of Wilson County.  
 13-48 (b) The county Court at Law of Wilson County is created on  
 13-49 September 1, 2023.  
 13-50 SECTION 2.023. Section 25.2607(d), Government Code, is  
 13-51 amended to read as follows:  
 13-52 (d) Notwithstanding Section 25.0015, the state shall  
 13-53 annually compensate the administrative county of a multicounty  
 13-54 statutory county court for the salary of the judge of the  
 13-55 multicounty statutory county court in an amount equal to 100  
 13-56 percent of the state ~~base~~ salary paid to a district judge with  
 13-57 comparable years of service as the multicounty statutory county  
 13-58 court judge, as set by the General Appropriations Act in accordance  
 13-59 with Section 659.012 [659.012(a)]. For purposes of this subsection,  
 13-60 the years of service of a multicounty statutory county court judge  
 13-61 include any years of service as:  
 13-62 (1) an appellate court, district court, statutory  
 13-63 county court, or statutory probate court justice or judge; or  
 13-64 (2) a district attorney, criminal district attorney,  
 13-65 or county attorney.  
 13-66 SECTION 2.024. (a) Subchapter F, Chapter 25, Government  
 13-67 Code, is amended by adding Sections 25.2703 and 25.2704 to read as  
 13-68 follows:  
 13-69 Sec. 25.2703. 2ND MULTICOUNTY COURT AT LAW (BEE, LIVE OAK,  
 13-70 AND MCMULLEN COUNTIES). Bee, Live Oak, and McMullen Counties have a  
 13-71 multicounty statutory county court composed of those counties, the

14-1 2nd Multicounty Court at Law.

14-2 Sec. 25.2704. 2ND MULTICOUNTY COURT AT LAW PROVISIONS. (a)  
 14-3 In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and  
 14-4 other law, the 2nd Multicounty Court at Law has concurrent  
 14-5 jurisdiction with the district courts, except in civil cases in  
 14-6 which the matter in controversy exceeds the amount provided by  
 14-7 Section 25.0003(c)(1).

14-8 (b) Bee County is the administrative county for the 2nd  
 14-9 Multicounty Court at Law.

14-10 (c) Bee, Live Oak, and McMullen Counties shall enter into an  
 14-11 interlocal agreement allocating the financial obligations of each  
 14-12 county in relation to the county court at law and the budget,  
 14-13 powers, and duties of the court and salaries of court personnel.

14-14 (d) If the counties served by the county court at law are  
 14-15 unable to reach an agreement under Subsection (c) before the first  
 14-16 day of the fiscal year for a county served by the court, each county  
 14-17 shall pay to the court's administrative county a share of the  
 14-18 court's administrative and operational costs for the fiscal year  
 14-19 based on the proportion of the court's caseload originating in the  
 14-20 county during the preceding year. A county is entitled to  
 14-21 compensation from the state under Section 25.0015 in proportion to  
 14-22 the amount paid under this subsection.

14-23 (e) The district clerk serves as clerk of the county court  
 14-24 at law in matters of concurrent jurisdiction with the district  
 14-25 court, and the county clerk serves as clerk of the county court at  
 14-26 law in all other cases.

14-27 (f) Sections 25.0006, 25.0008, and 74.054(b) do not apply to  
 14-28 the county court at law.

14-29 (g) Notwithstanding Section 74.121(b)(1), in matters of  
 14-30 concurrent jurisdiction, the judge of the 2nd Multicounty Court at  
 14-31 Law and the judges of the district courts in Bee, Live Oak, and  
 14-32 McMullen Counties may exchange benches and courtrooms and may  
 14-33 transfer cases between their dockets in the same manner that judges  
 14-34 of district courts exchange benches and courtrooms and transfer  
 14-35 cases under Section 24.003.

14-36 (b) The 2nd Multicounty Court at Law is created on September  
 14-37 1, 2023.

### ARTICLE 3. JUSTICE COURTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL COUNTY COURTS

14-39 SECTION 3.001. Article 49.05(b), Code of Criminal  
 14-40 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

14-41 (b) A justice of the peace may conduct an inquest:

14-42 (1) at the place where the death occurred;

14-43 (2) where the body was found; ~~or~~

14-44 (3) by videoconference with an individual who is:

14-45 (A) designated by the justice of the peace; and

14-46 (B) present with the body for a death described

14-47 by Article 49.04(a)(6) or (7); or

14-48 (4) at any other place determined to be reasonable by  
 14-49 the justice.

14-50 SECTION 3.002. Section 26.315, Government Code, is amended  
 14-51 to read as follows:

14-52 Sec. 26.315. STEPHENS COUNTY. (a) In addition to other  
 14-53 jurisdiction provided by law, the [The] County Court of Stephens  
 14-54 County has original concurrent jurisdiction with the justice courts  
 14-55 in all civil matters in which the justice courts have jurisdiction  
 14-56 under general law [the general jurisdiction of a probate court and  
 14-57 juvenile jurisdiction as provided by Section 26.042(b) but has no  
 14-58 other criminal or civil jurisdiction].

14-59 (b) The district clerk shall maintain the records of the  
 14-60 County Court of Stephens County.

14-61 SECTION 3.003. (a) Section 92.0563(e), Property Code, is  
 14-62 amended to read as follows:

14-63 (e) A justice court may not award a judgment under this  
 14-64 section, including an order of repair, that exceeds \$20,000  
 14-65 [\$10,000], excluding interest and costs of court.

14-66 (b) Section 92.0563(e), Property Code, as amended by this  
 14-67 section, applies only to a cause of action that accrues on or after  
 14-68 September 1, 2023. A cause of action that accrues before that date  
 14-69 is governed by the law in effect immediately before that date, and  
 14-70 that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

14-

ARTICLE 4. CRIMINAL LAW MAGISTRATES

SECTION 4.001. Article 2.09, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 2.09. WHO ARE MAGISTRATES. Each of the following officers is a magistrate within the meaning of this Code: The justices of the Supreme Court, the judges of the Court of Criminal Appeals, the justices of the Courts of Appeals, the judges of the District Court, the magistrates appointed by the judges of the district courts of Bexar County, Dallas County, or Tarrant County that give preference to criminal cases, the criminal law hearing officers for Harris County appointed under Subchapter L, Chapter 54, Government Code, the criminal law hearing officers for Cameron County appointed under Subchapter BB, Chapter 54, Government Code, the magistrates or associate judges appointed by the judges of the district courts of Lubbock County, Nolan County, or Webb County, the magistrates appointed by the judges of the criminal district courts of Dallas County or Tarrant County, the associate judges appointed by the judges of the district courts and the county courts at law that give preference to criminal cases in Jefferson County, the magistrates appointed by the judges of the district courts and statutory county courts in Denton County, the magistrates appointed by the judges of the district courts and statutory county courts in Grayson County, the associate judges appointed by the judges of the district courts and the statutory county courts of Brazos County, Nueces County, or Williamson County, the magistrates appointed by the judges of the district courts and statutory county courts that give preference to criminal cases in Travis County, the criminal magistrates appointed by the Brazoria County Commissioners Court, the criminal magistrates appointed by the Burnet County Commissioners Court, the magistrates appointed by the El Paso Council of Judges, the county judges, the judges of the county courts at law, judges of the county criminal courts, the judges of statutory probate courts, the associate judges appointed by the judges of the statutory probate courts under Chapter 54A, Government Code, the associate judges appointed by the judge of a district court under Chapter 54A, Government Code, the magistrates appointed under Subchapter JJ, Chapter 54, Government Code, the magistrates appointed by the Collin County Commissioners Court, the magistrates appointed by the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court, the justices of the peace, and the mayors and recorders and the judges of the municipal courts of incorporated cities or towns.

SECTION 4.002. Article 4.01, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 4.01. WHAT COURTS HAVE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION. The following courts have jurisdiction in criminal actions:

1. The Court of Criminal Appeals;
2. Courts of appeals;
3. The district courts;
4. The criminal district courts;
5. The magistrates appointed by the judges of the district courts of Bexar County, Dallas County, Tarrant County, or Travis County that give preference to criminal cases and the magistrates appointed by the judges of the criminal district courts of Dallas County or Tarrant County;
6. The county courts;
7. All county courts at law with criminal jurisdiction;
8. County criminal courts;
9. Justice courts;
10. Municipal courts;
11. The magistrates appointed by the judges of the district courts of Lubbock County;
12. The magistrates appointed by the El Paso Council of Judges;
13. The magistrates appointed by the Collin County Commissioners Court;
14. The magistrates appointed by the Brazoria County Commissioners Court or the local administrative judge for Brazoria County; ~~and~~
15. The magistrates appointed by the judges of the district courts of Tom Green County;

16-1 16. The magistrates appointed by the judges of the  
16-2 district and statutory county courts of Denton County; and

16-3 17. The magistrates appointed by the judges of the  
16-4 district and statutory county courts of Grayson County.

16-5 SECTION 4.003. Section 54.2001(b), Government Code, is  
16-6 amended to read as follows:

16-7 (b) The judges of the district and statutory county courts  
16-8 in Guadalupe County by majority [~~a unanimous~~] vote may appoint  
16-9 magistrates as authorized by the Commissioners Court of Guadalupe  
16-10 County.

16-11 SECTION 4.004. Section 54.2502(c), Government Code, is  
16-12 amended to read as follows:

16-13 (c) A judge of the criminal law magistrate court is entitled  
16-14 to the salary set by the commissioners court. The salary may not be  
16-15 less than the annual base salary paid to a district judge under  
16-16 Section 659.012(a)(1) and must include compensation for services  
16-17 performed on behalf of Brazoria County [~~Chapter 659~~].

16-18 SECTION 4.005. Chapter 54, Government Code, is amended by  
16-19 adding Subchapter RR to read as follows:

16-20 SUBCHAPTER RR. GRAYSON COUNTY CRIMINAL MAGISTRATES

16-21 Sec. 54.2701. AUTHORIZATION; APPOINTMENT; ELIMINATION.

16-22 (a) The Commissioners Court of Grayson County may authorize the  
16-23 judges of the district and statutory county courts in Grayson  
16-24 County to appoint one or more part-time or full-time magistrates to  
16-25 perform the duties authorized by this subchapter.

16-26 (b) The judges of the district and statutory county courts  
16-27 in Grayson County by a unanimous vote may appoint magistrates as  
16-28 authorized by the Commissioners Court of Grayson County.

16-29 (c) An order appointing a magistrate must be signed by the  
16-30 local presiding judge of the district courts serving Grayson  
16-31 County, and the order must state:

16-32 (1) the magistrate's name; and

16-33 (2) the date the magistrate's employment is to begin.

16-34 (d) An authorized magistrate's position may be eliminated  
16-35 on a majority vote of the Commissioners Court of Grayson County.

16-36 Sec. 54.2702. QUALIFICATIONS; OATH OF OFFICE. (a) To be  
16-37 eligible for appointment as a magistrate, a person must be a  
16-38 resident of this state and:

16-39 (1) have served as a justice of the peace or municipal  
16-40 court judge for at least four years before the date of appointment;  
16-41 or

16-42 (2) have been licensed to practice law in this state  
16-43 for at least four years before the date of appointment.

16-44 (b) A magistrate appointed under Section 54.2701 must take  
16-45 the constitutional oath of office required of appointed officers of  
16-46 this state.

16-47 Sec. 54.2703. COMPENSATION. A magistrate is entitled to  
16-48 the salary determined by the Commissioners Court of Grayson County.

16-49 Sec. 54.2704. JURISDICTION. A magistrate has concurrent  
16-50 criminal jurisdiction with the judges of the justice of the peace  
16-51 courts of Grayson County.

16-52 Sec. 54.2705. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The Commissioners  
16-53 Court of Grayson County shall establish the powers and duties of a  
16-54 magistrate appointed under this subchapter. Except as otherwise  
16-55 provided by the commissioners court, a magistrate has the powers of  
16-56 a magistrate under the Code of Criminal Procedure and other laws of  
16-57 this state and may administer an oath for any purpose.

16-58 (b) A magistrate shall give preference to performing the  
16-59 duties of a magistrate under Article 15.17, Code of Criminal  
16-60 Procedure.

16-61 (c) The commissioners court may designate one or more  
16-62 magistrates to hold regular hearings to:

16-63 (1) give admonishments;

16-64 (2) set and review bail and conditions of release;

16-65 (3) appoint legal counsel; and

16-66 (4) determine other routine matters relating to  
16-67 preindictment or pending cases within those courts' jurisdiction.

16-68 (d) In the hearings described by Subsection (c), a  
16-69 magistrate shall give preference to the case of an individual held  
16-70 in county jail.

16-71 (e) A magistrate may inquire into a defendant's intended

17-1 plea to the charge and set the case for an appropriate hearing  
17-2 before a judge or master.

17-3 Sec. 54.2706. JUDICIAL IMMUNITY. A magistrate has the same  
17-4 judicial immunity as a district judge.

17-5 Sec. 54.2707. WITNESSES. (a) A witness who is sworn and  
17-6 who appears before a magistrate is subject to the penalties for  
17-7 perjury and aggravated perjury provided by law.

17-8 (b) A referring court may fine or imprison a witness or  
17-9 other court participant for failure to appear after being summoned,  
17-10 refusal to answer questions, or other acts of direct contempt  
17-11 before a magistrate.

17-12 SECTION 4.006. Chapter 54, Government Code, is amended by  
17-13 adding Subchapter SS to read as follows:

17-14 SUBCHAPTER SS. DENTON COUNTY CRIMINAL LAW MAGISTRATE COURT

17-15 Sec. 54.2801. CREATION. The Denton County Criminal Law  
17-16 Magistrate Court is a court with the jurisdiction provided by this  
17-17 subchapter.

17-18 Sec. 54.2802. APPOINTMENT; OVERSIGHT. (a) The district  
17-19 court judges with jurisdiction in Denton County and the judges of  
17-20 the criminal statutory county courts of Denton County shall appoint  
17-21 one or more judges to preside over the criminal law magistrate  
17-22 court. An appointed judge must:

17-23 (1) serve Denton County as a district court judge, a  
17-24 criminal statutory county court judge, an associate judge of a  
17-25 court with criminal jurisdiction, a magistrate, including a jail  
17-26 magistrate, a judge of a municipal court of record, or a justice of  
17-27 the peace;

17-28 (2) be a licensed attorney in good standing with the  
17-29 State Bar of Texas;

17-30 (3) be authorized to access criminal history records  
17-31 under state and federal law;

17-32 (4) have completed training necessary to serve as a  
17-33 magistrate in Denton County, as determined by the district court  
17-34 judges with jurisdiction in Denton County and the judges of the  
17-35 criminal statutory county courts of Denton County; and

17-36 (5) meet the qualifications under Section 54.2807.

17-37 (b) The district court judges with jurisdiction in Denton  
17-38 County and the judges of the criminal statutory county courts of  
17-39 Denton County shall:

17-40 (1) designate to oversee the criminal law magistrate  
17-41 court either:

17-42 (A) one district court judge and one criminal  
17-43 statutory county court judge; or

17-44 (B) a criminal law magistrate court associate  
17-45 judge appointed under Section 54.2805; and

17-46 (2) supervise the magistrate court to ensure the  
17-47 magistrates appointed give preference to duties under Chapters 14,  
17-48 15, 16, 17, and 18, Code of Criminal Procedure.

17-49 (c) The magistrates of the criminal law magistrate court  
17-50 shall comply with the standing orders and directives regarding  
17-51 criminal cases of the district court judges with jurisdiction in  
17-52 Denton County and the judges of the criminal statutory county  
17-53 courts of Denton County, including a presiding criminal judge of  
17-54 Denton County.

17-55 Sec. 54.2803. JURISDICTION. (a) Except as provided by  
17-56 Subsection (b), the criminal law magistrate court has the criminal  
17-57 jurisdiction provided for magistrates by the constitution and laws  
17-58 of this state in all criminal cases:

17-59 (1) alleging an offense other than an offense  
17-60 punishable only as a Class C misdemeanor;

17-61 (2) for which a magistrate or judge has determined  
17-62 there is probable cause to believe the defendant committed the  
17-63 crime alleged;

17-64 (3) in which the defendant has been released or is  
17-65 confined in the Denton County jail; and

17-66 (4) in which either:

17-67 (A) the defendant has not yet been charged by  
17-68 information or indictment; or

17-69 (B) the judge presiding over the case has  
17-70 specifically authorized the criminal law magistrate to take certain  
17-71 actions.

18-1 (b) The criminal law magistrate court and the criminal law  
 18-2 magistrate court associate judge do not have jurisdiction to:

18-3 (1) hear a trial on the merits of an offense, except as  
 18-4 provided by Section 54.2811(c); or

18-5 (2) take any action not specifically authorized by an  
 18-6 order of referral from the judge presiding in a criminal case in  
 18-7 which the defendant has been charged by information or indictment.

18-8 (c) The magisterial duties in a criminal case shall be  
 18-9 transferred to the criminal law magistrate court:

18-10 (1) on request of a presiding judge in a criminal case  
 18-11 for which the defendant has been charged by information or  
 18-12 indictment; or

18-13 (2) after a defendant has been transferred to the  
 18-14 custody of the Denton County jail or released from custody on bond  
 18-15 in Denton County.

18-16 Sec. 54.2804. POWERS AND DUTIES. The criminal law  
 18-17 magistrate court may:

18-18 (1) determine probable cause for purposes of an arrest  
 18-19 or search;

18-20 (2) issue an order of commitment, a warrant of arrest,  
 18-21 or an order of protection;

18-22 (3) perform the duty of a magistrate under Chapters  
 18-23 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18, Code of Criminal Procedure;

18-24 (4) reduce or modify a bond, find a bond ordered by  
 18-25 another judge or magistrate to be insufficient, or require  
 18-26 conditions of a bond;

18-27 (5) hear any motion filed in a case over which the  
 18-28 court has jurisdiction;

18-29 (6) administer oaths; and

18-30 (7) perform an action on a proceeding referred to the  
 18-31 magistrate under Section 54.2811.

18-32 Sec. 54.2805. CRIMINAL LAW MAGISTRATE COURT ASSOCIATE  
 18-33 JUDGE. The district court judges with jurisdiction in Denton  
 18-34 County and the judges of the criminal statutory county courts of  
 18-35 Denton County may, with the approval of the Commissioners Court of  
 18-36 Denton County and two-thirds of the district court and criminal  
 18-37 statutory county court judges, appoint a district or criminal  
 18-38 statutory county court judge qualified under Section 54.2807 as the  
 18-39 criminal law magistrate court associate judge to:

18-40 (1) serve the district and criminal county courts of  
 18-41 Denton County;

18-42 (2) oversee the criminal law magistrate court; and

18-43 (3) recommend for appointment full-time and part-time  
 18-44 jail magistrates.

18-45 Sec. 54.2806. JAIL MAGISTRATE. (a) The district court  
 18-46 judges with jurisdiction in Denton County and the judges of the  
 18-47 criminal statutory county courts of Denton County may, with the  
 18-48 approval of the Commissioners Court of Denton County, appoint by  
 18-49 joint standing order one or more full-time jail magistrates  
 18-50 qualified to serve under Section 54.2807.

18-51 (b) A jail magistrate has the jurisdiction provided by the  
 18-52 constitution and laws of this state for magistrates for criminal  
 18-53 cases in which the defendant is in the custody of Denton County jail  
 18-54 and has not yet been charged with a criminal offense by complaint,  
 18-55 information, or indictment.

18-56 (c) A jail magistrate shall ensure timely compliance with  
 18-57 Article 15.17, Code of Criminal Procedure, in all cases within the  
 18-58 magistrate's jurisdiction, give preference to performing the  
 18-59 duties of a magistrate under that article, and perform the  
 18-60 following duties:

18-61 (1) consider sworn complaints or affidavits  
 18-62 establishing probable cause and entering orders of release or  
 18-63 commitment;

18-64 (2) conduct hearings under Article 15.17, Code of  
 18-65 Criminal Procedure, provide warnings, and advise a defendant of the  
 18-66 defendant's right to counsel;

18-67 (3) determine if a defendant is indigent and in need of  
 18-68 appointed counsel;

18-69 (4) set, adjust, or revoke a bond;

18-70 (5) set the conditions of bond;

18-71 (6) conduct an examining trial;

19-1 (7) issue search and arrest warrants;  
19-2 (8) issue magistrate's orders of emergency protection;  
19-3 and  
19-4 (9) with the express authorization of a justice of the  
19-5 peace, exercise concurrent criminal jurisdiction with the justice  
19-6 of the peace to dispose as provided by law of cases filed in the  
19-7 precinct of the authorizing justice of the peace, except for a trial  
19-8 on the merits following a plea of not guilty.

19-9 (d) A jail magistrate may be assigned additional duties by  
19-10 the criminal law magistrate court associate judge appointed under  
19-11 Section 54.2805.

19-12 (e) A jail magistrate has the express authority and duty to:  
19-13 (1) order the release of defendant due to an  
19-14 extraordinary medical condition;

19-15 (2) consider information and make inquiries regarding  
19-16 a defendant's mental health;

19-17 (3) issue orders or writs as necessary for the  
19-18 evaluation, treatment, and accommodation of a defendant's mental  
19-19 health issue; and

19-20 (4) communicate with the Denton County local mental  
19-21 health authority or another qualified mental health professional to  
19-22 provide continuing care to a defendant.

19-23 (f) In addition to the full-time jail magistrates appointed  
19-24 under Subsection (a), the district court judges with jurisdiction  
19-25 in Denton County and the judges of the criminal statutory county  
19-26 courts of Denton County may appoint or engage by joint standing  
19-27 order one or more part-time jail magistrates to serve as a jail  
19-28 magistrate as assigned. A part-time jail magistrate must be  
19-29 qualified to serve as a magistrate in the county under Section  
19-30 54.2807 and be a sitting district, statutory county, or municipal  
19-31 court judge or a justice of the peace in Denton County.

19-32 Sec. 54.2807. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for  
19-33 appointment as the criminal law magistrate court associate judge, a  
19-34 jail magistrate, or another magistrate in the criminal law  
19-35 magistrate court, a person must:

19-36 (1) have been a resident of Denton County for at least  
19-37 two years preceding the person's appointment; and

19-38 (2) have been licensed to practice law in this state  
19-39 for at least four years.

19-40 Sec. 54.2808. COMPENSATION. A criminal law magistrate  
19-41 court associate judge, a jail magistrate, and each other magistrate  
19-42 in the criminal law magistrate court shall be paid a total annual  
19-43 salary set by the Commissioners Court of Denton County. The salary  
19-44 shall be paid in a manner and from a fund determined by the  
19-45 commissioners court.

19-46 Sec. 54.2809. JUDICIAL IMMUNITY. A criminal law magistrate  
19-47 court associate judge, a jail magistrate, and each other magistrate  
19-48 in the criminal law magistrate court has the same judicial immunity  
19-49 as a district judge.

19-50 Sec. 54.2810. TERMINATION OF SERVICES. (a) Except as  
19-51 provided by Subsection (b), a criminal law magistrate court  
19-52 associate judge, a jail magistrate, and each other magistrate in  
19-53 the criminal law magistrate court may be terminated by a two-thirds  
19-54 vote of the district court judges with jurisdiction in Denton  
19-55 County and the judges of the criminal statutory county courts of  
19-56 Denton County.

19-57 (b) A part-time jail magistrate serves solely at the  
19-58 discretion of a criminal law magistrate court associate judge  
19-59 appointed under Section 54.2805 or of the district court judge and  
19-60 criminal statutory county court judge designated to oversee the  
19-61 criminal law magistrate court under Section 54.2802(b).

19-62 Sec. 54.2811. PROCEEDING THAT MAY BE REFERRED. (a) A  
19-63 district court judge with jurisdiction in Denton County, the judge  
19-64 of a criminal statutory county court of Denton County, or the judge  
19-65 of the juvenile court of Denton County may refer to the criminal law  
19-66 magistrate court the following matters in a criminal case:

19-67 (1) a negotiated plea of guilty or no contest before  
19-68 the court;

19-69 (2) a bond forfeiture, remittitur, and related  
19-70 proceedings;

19-71 (3) a pretrial motion;

20-1                   (4) a writ of habeas corpus;  
 20-2                   (5) an examining trial;  
 20-3                   (6) jury selection;  
 20-4                   (7) an occupational driver's license;  
 20-5                   (8) a waiver of extradition or a related matter under  
 20-6 Chapter 51, Code of Criminal Procedure;  
 20-7                   (9) the issuance of search warrants, including a  
 20-8 search warrant under Article 18.02(a)(10), Code of Criminal  
 20-9 Procedure, notwithstanding Article 18.01(c), Code of Criminal  
 20-10 Procedure;  
 20-11                   (10) a petition for an order of expunction under  
 20-12 Chapter 55, Code of Criminal Procedure;  
 20-13                   (11) an asset forfeiture hearing as provided by  
 20-14 Chapter 59, Code of Criminal Procedure;  
 20-15                   (12) a civil commitment matter under Subtitle C, Title  
 20-16 7, Health and Safety Code;  
 20-17                   (13) setting, adjusting, or revoking bond;  
 20-18                   (14) the conduct of initial juvenile detention  
 20-19 hearings or any other matter in a juvenile case if referred by the  
 20-20 judge of the juvenile court of the county and approved by the Denton  
 20-21 County Juvenile Board; and  
 20-22                   (15) any other matter the judge considers necessary  
 20-23 and proper.  
 20-24                   (b) Except as limited by an order of referral, the criminal  
 20-25 law magistrate court associate judge may:  
 20-26                   (1) conduct a hearing;  
 20-27                   (2) hear evidence;  
 20-28                   (3) compel production of relevant evidence;  
 20-29                   (4) rule on the admissibility of evidence;  
 20-30                   (5) issue a summons for the appearance of witnesses;  
 20-31                   (6) examine a witness;  
 20-32                   (7) swear a witness for a hearing;  
 20-33                   (8) make findings of fact on evidence;  
 20-34                   (9) formulate conclusions of law;  
 20-35                   (10) rule on pretrial motions;  
 20-36                   (11) recommend the rulings, orders, or judgment to be  
 20-37 made in a case;  
 20-38                   (12) regulate proceedings in a hearing before the  
 20-39 associate judge;  
 20-40                   (13) accept a negotiated plea of guilty or no contest  
 20-41 made before the court and:  
 20-42                   (A) enter a finding of guilty and impose or  
 20-43 suspend the sentence; or  
 20-44                   (B) defer adjudication of guilt;  
 20-45                   (14) select a jury;  
 20-46                   (15) accept a negotiated plea in a probation  
 20-47 revocation;  
 20-48                   (16) conduct a contested probation revocation  
 20-49 hearing;  
 20-50                   (17) sign a dismissal in a misdemeanor case; and  
 20-51                   (18) perform any act and take any measure necessary  
 20-52 and proper for the efficient performance of the duties required by  
 20-53 the order of referral.  
 20-54                   (c) Notwithstanding Section 54.2803(b), the judge of the  
 20-55 juvenile court of Denton County may refer to the criminal law  
 20-56 magistrate court associate judge any proceeding over which the  
 20-57 juvenile court has exclusive original jurisdiction under Title 3,  
 20-58 Family Code, including any matter ancillary to that proceeding.  
 20-59 The criminal law magistrate court associate judge may accept a plea  
 20-60 of guilty for a misdemeanor or felony or a plea of true from a  
 20-61 defendant or juvenile, regardless of the classification of the  
 20-62 offense charged or the conduct alleged.  
 20-63                   (d) The criminal law magistrate court associate judge may  
 20-64 sign a motion to dismiss submitted by an attorney representing the  
 20-65 state on cases referred to the judge, or on dockets called by the  
 20-66 judge, and may consider unadjudicated cases at sentencing under  
 20-67 Section 12.45, Penal Code.  
 20-68                   (e) A criminal law magistrate, including the criminal law  
 20-69 magistrate court associate judge, has all of the powers of a  
 20-70 magistrate under the laws of this state and may administer an oath  
 20-71 for any purpose.

21-1 Sec. 54.2812. ORDER OF REFERRAL. (a) To refer one or more  
 21-2 cases to the criminal law magistrate court or the criminal law  
 21-3 magistrate court associate judge, a judge must issue a written  
 21-4 order of referral that specifies the magistrate court's duties.

21-5 (b) An order of referral may:

21-6 (1) limit the powers of the magistrate court and  
 21-7 direct the magistrate to report only on specific issues, perform  
 21-8 particular acts, or receive and report on evidence only;

21-9 (2) set the time and place for the hearing;

21-10 (3) prescribe a closing date for the hearing;

21-11 (4) provide a date for filing the magistrate's  
 21-12 findings;

21-13 (5) designate proceedings for more than one case over  
 21-14 which the magistrate shall preside;

21-15 (6) direct the magistrate to call the court's docket;  
 21-16 and

21-17 (7) set forth general powers and limitations or  
 21-18 authority of the magistrate applicable to any case referred.

21-19 Sec. 54.2813. FORFEITURES. Bail bonds and personal bonds  
 21-20 may be forfeited by the criminal law magistrate court or the  
 21-21 criminal law magistrate court associate judge in the manner  
 21-22 provided by Chapter 22, Code of Criminal Procedure, and those  
 21-23 forfeitures shall be filed with:

21-24 (1) the district clerk if associated with a felony  
 21-25 case;

21-26 (2) the county clerk if associated with a Class A or  
 21-27 Class B misdemeanor case; or

21-28 (3) the justice court clerk associated with the Class  
 21-29 C misdemeanor case in which the bond was originally filed.

21-30 Sec. 54.2814. PAPERS TRANSMITTED TO JUDGE. At the  
 21-31 conclusion of the proceedings, a magistrate or the criminal law  
 21-32 magistrate court associate judge shall transmit to the referring  
 21-33 court any papers relating to the case, including the magistrate's  
 21-34 findings, conclusions, orders, recommendations, or other action  
 21-35 taken.

21-36 Sec. 54.2815. JUDICIAL ACTION. (a) A referring court may  
 21-37 modify, correct, reject, reverse, or recommit for further  
 21-38 information any action taken by the magistrate or the criminal law  
 21-39 magistrate court associate judge.

21-40 (b) If the referring court does not modify, correct, reject,  
 21-41 reverse, or recommit an action of the magistrate or the criminal law  
 21-42 magistrate court associate judge, the action becomes the decree of  
 21-43 the referring court.

21-44 Sec. 54.2816. EXCHANGE OF BENCHES. (a) The judges of the  
 21-45 criminal law magistrate court may exchange benches and may sit and  
 21-46 act for each other in any proceeding pending in the criminal law  
 21-47 magistrate court.

21-48 (b) When conducting a capias pro fine hearing for any court,  
 21-49 the criminal law magistrate court acts in the same capacity and with  
 21-50 the same authority as the judge who issued the capias pro fine.

21-51 Sec. 54.2817. COURT REPORTER. At the request of a party in  
 21-52 a criminal case, the criminal law magistrate court shall provide a  
 21-53 court reporter to record the proceedings before the magistrate.

21-54 Sec. 54.2818. WITNESS. (a) A witness who appears before  
 21-55 the criminal law magistrate court and is sworn is subject to the  
 21-56 penalties for perjury provided by law.

21-57 (b) A referring court may issue attachment against and may  
 21-58 fine or imprison a witness whose failure to appear after being  
 21-59 summoned or whose refusal to answer questions has been certified to  
 21-60 the referring court.

21-61 Sec. 54.2819. CLERK. (a) The district clerk serves as  
 21-62 clerk of the criminal law magistrate court, except that after a  
 21-63 Class A or Class B misdemeanor is filed in the county court at law  
 21-64 and assigned to the magistrate court, the county clerk serves as  
 21-65 clerk for that misdemeanor case.

21-66 (b) The district clerk shall establish a docket and keep the  
 21-67 minutes for the cases filed in or transferred to the magistrate  
 21-68 court. The district clerk shall perform any other duties that local  
 21-69 administrative rules require in connection with the implementation  
 21-70 of this subchapter. The local administrative judge shall ensure  
 21-71 that the duties required under this subsection are performed. To

22-1 facilitate the duties associated with serving as the clerk of the  
22-2 magistrate court, the district clerk and the deputies of the  
22-3 district clerk may serve as deputy county clerks at the discretion  
22-4 of the district clerk.

22-5 (c) The clerk of the case shall include as part of the record  
22-6 on appeal a copy of the order and local administrative rule under  
22-7 which a magistrate court acted.

22-8 Sec. 54.2820. COSTS. (a) When the district clerk is the  
22-9 clerk under this subchapter, the district clerk shall charge the  
22-10 same court costs for cases filed in, transferred to, or assigned to  
22-11 the criminal law magistrate court that are charged in the district  
22-12 courts.

22-13 (b) When the county clerk is the clerk under this  
22-14 subchapter, the county clerk shall charge the same court costs for  
22-15 cases filed in, transferred to, or assigned to the magistrate court  
22-16 that are charged in the county courts.

22-17 SECTION 4.007. Section 54.651, Government Code, is amended  
22-18 by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

22-19 (d) A magistrate appointed under this subchapter may not  
22-20 engage in the private practice of law, as defined by Section 81.101,  
22-21 in Tarrant County.

22-22 SECTION 4.008. Section 54.656(a), Government Code, is  
22-23 amended to read as follows:

22-24 (a) A judge may refer to a magistrate any criminal case or  
22-25 matter relating to a criminal case for proceedings involving:

22-26 (1) a negotiated plea of guilty or nolo contendere [~~no~~  
22-27 contest] and sentencing before the court;

22-28 (2) a bond forfeiture, remittitur, and related  
22-29 proceedings;

22-30 (3) a pretrial motion;

22-31 (4) a writ of habeas corpus;

22-32 (5) an examining trial;

22-33 (6) an occupational driver's license;

22-34 (7) a petition for an order of expunction under  
22-35 Chapter 55, Code of Criminal Procedure;

22-36 (8) an asset forfeiture hearing as provided by Chapter  
22-37 59, Code of Criminal Procedure;

22-38 (9) a petition for an order of nondisclosure of  
22-39 criminal history record information or an order of nondisclosure of  
22-40 criminal history record information that does not require a  
22-41 petition provided by Subchapter E-1, Chapter 411;

22-42 (10) a motion to modify or revoke community  
22-43 supervision or to proceed with an adjudication of guilt;

22-44 (11) setting conditions, modifying, revoking, and  
22-45 surrendering of bonds, including surety bonds;

22-46 (12) specialty court proceedings;

22-47 (13) a waiver of extradition; and

22-48 (14) any other matter the referring judge considers  
22-49 necessary and proper.

22-50 SECTION 4.009. Subchapter H, Chapter 54, Government Code,  
22-51 is amended by adding Section 54.6585 to read as follows:

22-52 Sec. 54.6585. CLERK. (a) The district clerk serves as  
22-53 clerk of the cases referred to a magistrate under this subchapter,  
22-54 except:

22-55 (1) the county clerk serves as clerk for a Class A or  
22-56 Class B misdemeanor case filed in a county criminal court and  
22-57 referred to a magistrate; and

22-58 (2) the originating justice court clerk serves as  
22-59 clerk for a Class C misdemeanor case filed in a justice court and  
22-60 referred to a magistrate.

22-61 (b) The district clerk shall establish a docket and keep the  
22-62 minutes for the cases referred to a magistrate under this  
22-63 subchapter. To facilitate the duties associated with serving as  
22-64 the clerk for the cases referred to a magistrate, the district clerk  
22-65 and deputy district clerks may serve as deputy county clerks and  
22-66 deputy justice clerks at the discretion of the district clerk.

22-67 ARTICLE 5. ASSOCIATE JUDGES AND VISITING JUDGES

22-68 SECTION 5.001. (a) Sections 201.005(a) and (d), Family  
22-69 Code, are amended to read as follows:

22-70 (a) Except as provided by this section, a judge of a court  
22-71 may refer to an associate judge any aspect of a suit or action,

23-1 including any matter ancillary to the suit or action, over which the  
 23-2 court has jurisdiction under:

- 23-3 (1) this title;  
 23-4 (2) [7] Title 1;  
 23-5 (3) [7] Chapter 35, 35A, or 45;  
 23-6 (4) [7 or] Title 4;  
 23-7 (5) Subchapter A, Chapter 7B, Code of Criminal  
 23-8 Procedure; or  
 23-9 (6) Chapter 24A, Property Code~~[, including any matter~~  
 23-10 ~~ancillary to the suit].~~

23-11 (d) The requirements of Subsections (b) and (c) shall apply  
 23-12 whenever a judge has authority to refer the trial of a suit or  
 23-13 action described by Subsection (a) [under this title, Title 1,  
 23-14 Chapter 45, or Title 4] to an associate judge, master, or other  
 23-15 assistant judge regardless of whether the assistant judge is  
 23-16 appointed under this subchapter.

23-17 (b) Sections 201.005(a) and (d), Family Code, as amended by  
 23-18 this section, apply only to a suit or application filed on or after  
 23-19 September 1, 2023. A suit or application filed before September 1,  
 23-20 2023, is governed by the law in effect on the date the suit or  
 23-21 application was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for  
 23-22 that purpose.

23-23 SECTION 5.002. Section 201.113, Family Code, is amended to  
 23-24 read as follows:

23-25 Sec. 201.113. VISITING ASSOCIATE JUDGE. (a) The [If an  
 23-26 associate judge appointed under this subchapter is temporarily  
 23-27 unable to perform the associate judge's official duties because of  
 23-28 absence resulting from family circumstances, illness, injury,  
 23-29 disability, or military service, or if there is a vacancy in the  
 23-30 position of associate judge, the] presiding judge of an [the]  
 23-31 administrative judicial region [in which the associate judge serves  
 23-32 or the vacancy occurs] may assign [appoint] a visiting associate  
 23-33 judge for Title IV-D cases to perform the duties of an [the]  
 23-34 associate judge appointed under this subchapter only if:

23-35 (1) the associate judge is temporarily unable to  
 23-36 perform the associate judge's official duties because of absence  
 23-37 resulting from:

- 23-38 (A) illness;  
 23-39 (B) injury;  
 23-40 (C) disability;  
 23-41 (D) personal emergency;  
 23-42 (E) military service;  
 23-43 (F) vacation; or  
 23-44 (G) attendance at a continuing legal education  
 23-45 program;

23-46 (2) the associate judge requests assistance due to a  
 23-47 heavy workload or a pandemic-related emergency; or

23-48 (3) a vacancy occurs in the position of associate  
 23-49 judge.

23-50 (b) The presiding judge of an administrative judicial  
 23-51 region may assign a visiting associate judge under Subsection (a)  
 23-52 during the period the associate judge is unable to perform the  
 23-53 associate judge's duties, during the period assistance is needed to  
 23-54 manage the associate judge's workload, or until another associate  
 23-55 judge is appointed to fill the vacancy.

23-56 (c) ~~[(b)]~~ A person is not eligible for assignment  
 23-57 ~~[appointment]~~ under this section unless the person has served as a  
 23-58 master or associate judge under this chapter, a district judge, or a  
 23-59 statutory county court judge for at least two years before the date  
 23-60 of assignment ~~[appointment]~~.

23-61 (d) ~~[(c)]~~ A visiting associate judge assigned ~~[appointed]~~  
 23-62 under this section is subject to each provision of this chapter that  
 23-63 applies to an associate judge serving under a regular appointment  
 23-64 under this subchapter. A visiting associate judge assigned  
 23-65 ~~[appointed]~~ under this section is entitled to compensation to be  
 23-66 determined by a majority vote of the presiding judges of the  
 23-67 administrative judicial regions through use of funds under this  
 23-68 subchapter. A visiting associate judge is not considered to be a  
 23-69 state employee for any purpose.

23-70 (e) ~~[(d)]~~ Section 2252.901, Government Code, does not apply  
 23-71 to the assignment ~~[appointment]~~ of a visiting associate judge under

24-1 this section.

24-2 SECTION 5.003. Section 201.208, Family Code, is amended to  
 24-3 read as follows:

24-4 Sec. 201.208. ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES AND ~~[APPOINTMENT OF]~~  
 24-5 VISITING ASSOCIATE JUDGES. (a) This chapter does not limit the  
 24-6 authority of a presiding judge to assign a judge eligible for  
 24-7 assignment under Chapter 74, Government Code, to assist in  
 24-8 processing cases in a reasonable time.

24-9 (b) The ~~[If an associate judge appointed under this~~  
 24-10 ~~subchapter is temporarily unable to perform the associate judge's~~  
 24-11 ~~official duties because of absence resulting from family~~  
 24-12 ~~circumstances, illness, injury, disability, or military service,~~  
 24-13 ~~or if there is a vacancy in the position of associate judge, the]~~  
 24-14 presiding judge of an [the] administrative judicial region [in  
 24-15 which the associate judge serves or the vacancy occurs] may assign  
 24-16 [appoint] a visiting associate judge to perform the duties of an  
 24-17 [the] associate judge appointed under this subchapter only if:

24-18 (1) the associate judge is temporarily unable to  
 24-19 perform the associate judge's official duties because of absence  
 24-20 resulting from:

- 24-21 (A) illness;
- 24-22 (B) injury;
- 24-23 (C) disability;
- 24-24 (D) personal emergency;
- 24-25 (E) military service;
- 24-26 (F) vacation; or
- 24-27 (G) attendance at a continuing legal education  
 24-28 program;

24-29 (2) the associate judge requests assistance due to a  
 24-30 heavy workload or a pandemic-related emergency; or

24-31 (3) a vacancy occurs in the position of associate  
 24-32 judge.

24-33 (c) The presiding judge of an administrative judicial  
 24-34 region may assign a visiting associate judge under Subsection (b)  
 24-35 during the period the associate judge is unable to perform the  
 24-36 associate judge's duties, during the period assistance is needed to  
 24-37 manage the associate judge's workload, or until another associate  
 24-38 judge is appointed to fill the vacancy.

24-39 (d) [the] A person is not eligible for assignment  
 24-40 [appointment] under this section unless the person has served as a  
 24-41 master or associate judge under this chapter, a district judge, or a  
 24-42 statutory county court judge for at least two years before the date  
 24-43 of assignment [appointment].

24-44 (e) [the] A visiting associate judge assigned [appointed]  
 24-45 under this section is subject to each provision of this chapter that  
 24-46 applies to an associate judge serving under a regular appointment  
 24-47 under this subchapter. A visiting associate judge assigned  
 24-48 [appointed] under this section is entitled to compensation, to be  
 24-49 determined by a majority vote of the presiding judges of the  
 24-50 administrative judicial regions, through use of funds under this  
 24-51 subchapter. A visiting associate judge is not considered to be a  
 24-52 state employee for any purpose.

24-53 (f) [the] Section 2252.901, Government Code, does not apply  
 24-54 to the assignment [appointment] of a visiting associate judge under  
 24-55 this section.

24-56 SECTION 5.004. Subchapter C, Chapter 54A, Government Code,  
 24-57 is amended by adding Section 54A.219 to read as follows:

24-58 Sec. 54A.219. VISITING ASSOCIATE JUDGES. (a) This section  
 24-59 does not limit the authority of the presiding judge of the statutory  
 24-60 probate courts to assign a judge under Section 25.0022 to assist  
 24-61 with processing cases in a reasonable time.

24-62 (b) The local administrative probate judge or, for a county  
 24-63 without a local administrative probate judge, a statutory probate  
 24-64 court judge of the county in which an associate judge appointed  
 24-65 under this subchapter serves may assign a visiting associate judge  
 24-66 to perform the duties of an associate judge appointed under this  
 24-67 subchapter only if:

24-68 (1) the associate judge is temporarily unable to  
 24-69 perform the associate judge's official duties because of absence  
 24-70 resulting from:

- 24-71 (A) illness;

25-1 (B) injury;  
 25-2 (C) disability;  
 25-3 (D) personal emergency;  
 25-4 (E) military service;  
 25-5 (F) vacation; or  
 25-6 (G) attendance at a continuing legal education  
 25-7 program;  
 25-8 (2) the associate judge requests assistance due to a  
 25-9 heavy workload or a pandemic-related emergency; or  
 25-10 (3) a vacancy occurs in the position of associate  
 25-11 judge.  
 25-12 (c) A visiting associate judge assigned under this section  
 25-13 may be assigned to serve during the period an associate judge is  
 25-14 unable to perform the associate judge's duties, during the period  
 25-15 the associate judge needs assistance in managing the judge's  
 25-16 workload, or until another associate judge is appointed to fill a  
 25-17 vacancy in the position of associate judge.  
 25-18 (d) A person is not eligible for assignment under this  
 25-19 section unless the person has served as an associate judge under  
 25-20 this subchapter for at least two years before the date of  
 25-21 assignment.  
 25-22 (e) A visiting associate judge assigned under this section  
 25-23 is subject to each provision of this subchapter that applies to an  
 25-24 associate judge appointed under this subchapter. An assigned  
 25-25 visiting associate judge is entitled to compensation equal to the  
 25-26 salary of the associate judge, prorated for time served. A visiting  
 25-27 associate judge is not considered a county employee for any  
 25-28 purpose.  
 25-29 SECTION 5.005. Subtitle D, Title 2, Government Code, is  
 25-30 amended by adding Chapter 54B to read as follows:  
 25-31 CHAPTER 54B. ASSOCIATE JUDGES IN CERTAIN COUNTIES  
 25-32 SUBCHAPTER A. ASSOCIATE JUDGES IN DUVAL COUNTY  
 25-33 Sec. 54B.001. APPOINTMENT. The judge of the 229th District  
 25-34 Court, with the approval of the Commissioners Court of Duval  
 25-35 County, may appoint a full-time or a part-time associate judge to  
 25-36 perform the duties authorized by this subchapter.  
 25-37 Sec. 54B.002. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for  
 25-38 appointment as an associate judge, a person must:  
 25-39 (1) be a resident of this state and Duval County; and  
 25-40 (2) meet the requirements and qualifications to serve  
 25-41 as a judge of the court to which the person is appointed.  
 25-42 Sec. 54B.003. COMPENSATION. (a) An associate judge is  
 25-43 entitled to the compensation set by the Commissioners Court of  
 25-44 Duval County.  
 25-45 (b) The salary shall be paid from the county fund available  
 25-46 for payments of officers' salaries.  
 25-47 (c) This section does not apply to an associate judge  
 25-48 appointed under Chapter 54A of this code or Section 201.001, Family  
 25-49 Code.  
 25-50 Sec. 54B.004. PRIVATE PRACTICE. A part-time associate  
 25-51 judge may engage in the private practice of law, unless restricted  
 25-52 on a finding that it is not in the public interest by the appointing  
 25-53 judge.  
 25-54 Sec. 54B.005. TERMINATION OF SERVICES. (a) An associate  
 25-55 judge serves at the will of the judge of the 229th District Court.  
 25-56 (b) This section does not apply to an associate judge  
 25-57 appointed under Chapter 54A of this code or Section 201.001, Family  
 25-58 Code.  
 25-59 Sec. 54B.006. REFERRAL OF CASE. (a) The appointing judge  
 25-60 may refer to an associate judge any aspect of a civil or criminal  
 25-61 case involving a matter over which the referring court has  
 25-62 jurisdiction in Duval County.  
 25-63 (b) After notice to all parties of the time and place of  
 25-64 hearing, an associate judge may preside over any hearing,  
 25-65 including:  
 25-66 (1) for a civil case, proceedings involving:  
 25-67 (A) a temporary order in an action or suit for  
 25-68 support by one spouse against another;  
 25-69 (B) a motion or suit to modify a temporary or  
 25-70 final order;  
 25-71 (C) temporary orders in a suit affecting the

26-1 parent-child relationship;  
 26-2 (D) an application for a temporary injunction  
 26-3 related to temporary possession or use of property;  
 26-4 (E) habeas corpus, including any hearing  
 26-5 authorized by the Family Code;  
 26-6 (F) a motion to transfer;  
 26-7 (G) a motion of contempt for failure or refusal  
 26-8 to obey a temporary or final order;  
 26-9 (H) an action brought under Chapter 159, Family  
 26-10 Code;  
 26-11 (I) an action for the protection of the family;  
 26-12 (J) a matter on which the parties agree;  
 26-13 (K) a matter in which a party is entitled to a  
 26-14 default judgment;  
 26-15 (L) a divorce action in which a waiver of  
 26-16 citation is on file;  
 26-17 (M) a friendly suit; and  
 26-18 (N) any other matter in the jurisdiction of the  
 26-19 court, including a pretrial motion, discovery, a summary judgment,  
 26-20 and other matters governed by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure;  
 26-21 and  
 26-22 (2) for a criminal case, proceedings involving:  
 26-23 (A) a negotiated plea of guilty or nolo  
 26-24 contendere;  
 26-25 (B) a bond forfeiture;  
 26-26 (C) a pretrial motion;  
 26-27 (D) a postconviction writ of habeas corpus;  
 26-28 (E) an examining trial; and  
 26-29 (F) any other matter that the judge considers  
 26-30 proper.  
 26-31 (c) A judge may not refer to an associate judge any criminal  
 26-32 case for trial on the merits in which a jury trial has been  
 26-33 requested.  
 26-34 (d) Unless a party files a written objection to the  
 26-35 associate judge hearing the trial, the appointing judge may refer  
 26-36 to an associate judge a trial on the merits. If an objection is  
 26-37 filed, the trial on the merits shall be heard by the referring  
 26-38 court.  
 26-39 (e) A trial on the merits is a final adjudication from which  
 26-40 an appeal may be taken to a court of appeals.  
 26-41 (f) An associate judge may not conduct a contested trial on  
 26-42 the merits to terminate parental rights unless the affected parties  
 26-43 give written consent to the contested trial by the associate judge.  
 26-44 Unless written consent is given by the affected parties to a  
 26-45 contested trial on the merits, any order terminating parental  
 26-46 rights issued pursuant to an associate judge's report resulting  
 26-47 from the contested trial is void.  
 26-48 (g) On appointment of an associate judge, any pending or  
 26-49 future cases may be referred to the associate judge.  
 26-50 Sec. 54B.007. ORDER OF REFERRAL. (a) To refer cases to an  
 26-51 associate judge, the referring court must issue an order of  
 26-52 referral.  
 26-53 (b) The order of referral may limit the power or duties of an  
 26-54 associate judge.  
 26-55 Sec. 54B.008. POWERS. Except as limited by an order of  
 26-56 referral, an associate judge may:  
 26-57 (1) conduct a hearing;  
 26-58 (2) hear evidence;  
 26-59 (3) compel production of relevant evidence;  
 26-60 (4) rule on admissibility of evidence;  
 26-61 (5) issue summons for the appearance of witnesses;  
 26-62 (6) examine witnesses;  
 26-63 (7) swear witnesses for hearings;  
 26-64 (8) make findings of fact on evidence;  
 26-65 (9) formulate conclusions of law;  
 26-66 (10) recommend the judgment to be made in a case;  
 26-67 (11) regulate all proceedings in a hearing before the  
 26-68 associate judge;  
 26-69 (12) rule on all criminal pretrial motions; and  
 26-70 (13) perform any act and take any measure necessary  
 26-71 and proper for the efficient performance of the associate judge's

27-1 duties.

27-2 Sec. 54B.009. ATTENDANCE OF BAILIFF. A bailiff shall  
 27-3 attend a hearing held by an associate judge if directed by the  
 27-4 referring court.

27-5 Sec. 54B.010. WITNESS. (a) A witness appearing before an  
 27-6 associate judge is subject to the penalties for perjury provided by  
 27-7 law.

27-8 (b) A referring court may issue attachment against and may  
 27-9 fine or imprison a witness whose failure to appear before an  
 27-10 associate judge after being summoned or whose refusal to answer  
 27-11 questions has been certified to the court.

27-12 Sec. 54B.011. REPORT TRANSMITTED TO COURT; NOTICE. (a) At  
 27-13 the conclusion of any hearing conducted by an associate judge and on  
 27-14 the preparation of an associate judge's report, the associate judge  
 27-15 shall transmit to the referring court:

27-16 (1) all papers relating to the case; and

27-17 (2) the associate judge's signed and dated report.

27-18 (b) After the associate judge's report has been signed, the  
 27-19 associate judge shall give notice of the substance of the report to  
 27-20 the parties participating in the hearing.

27-21 (c) The associate judge's report may contain the associate  
 27-22 judge's findings, conclusions, or recommendations. The associate  
 27-23 judge's report must be in writing in a form as the referring court  
 27-24 may direct. The form may be a notation on the referring court's  
 27-25 docket sheet.

27-26 (d) The notice required under Subsection (b) may be given in  
 27-27 open court or may be given by certified mail, return receipt  
 27-28 requested. If the notice is given by certified mail, the associate  
 27-29 judge shall certify the date of mailing and the notice is considered  
 27-30 to have been given on the third day after the date of mailing.

27-31 Sec. 54B.012. NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL. An associate judge  
 27-32 shall give all parties notice of the right of appeal to the judge of  
 27-33 the referring court. The notice may be given:

27-34 (1) at the hearing;

27-35 (2) by posting the notice inside or outside the  
 27-36 courtroom of the referring court; or

27-37 (3) as otherwise directed by the referring court.

27-38 Sec. 54B.013. EFFECT OF ASSOCIATE JUDGE'S REPORT PENDING  
 27-39 APPEAL. Pending appeal of the associate judge's report to the  
 27-40 referring court, the associate judge's findings, conclusions, and  
 27-41 recommendations are in full force and effect and are enforceable as  
 27-42 an order of the referring court, except for the orders providing for  
 27-43 incarceration or for the appointment of a receiver.

27-44 Sec. 54B.014. JUDICIAL ACTION ON ASSOCIATE JUDGE'S REPORT.  
 27-45 After the associate judge's report is filed, and unless the parties  
 27-46 have filed a written notice of appeal to the referring court, the  
 27-47 referring court may:

27-48 (1) adopt, approve, or reject the associate judge's  
 27-49 report;

27-50 (2) hear further evidence; or

27-51 (3) recommit the matter for further proceedings as the  
 27-52 referring court considers proper and necessary in the particular  
 27-53 circumstances of the case.

27-54 Sec. 54B.015. DECREE OR ORDER OF COURT. If an appeal to the  
 27-55 referring court is not filed or the right to an appeal to the  
 27-56 referring court is waived, the associate judge's findings,  
 27-57 conclusions, and recommendations become the decree or order of the  
 27-58 referring court only on the referring court's signing a decree or  
 27-59 order conforming to the associate judge's report.

27-60 Sec. 54B.016. APPEAL TO REFERRING COURT. (a) Any party is  
 27-61 entitled to a hearing by the judge of the referring court if, not  
 27-62 later than three days, computed in the manner provided by Rule 4,  
 27-63 Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, after the date the associate judge  
 27-64 gives the notice required by Section 54B.011, an appeal of the  
 27-65 associate judge's report is filed with the referring court.

27-66 (b) The first day of the appeal time to the referring courts  
 27-67 begins on the day after the day on which the associate judge gives  
 27-68 the notice required by Section 54B.011.

27-69 (c) An appeal to the referring court shall be in writing and  
 27-70 must specify the associate judge's findings, conclusions, and  
 27-71 recommendations to which the party objects. The appeal is limited

28-1 to the findings, conclusions, and recommendations specified in the  
 28-2 written appeal.

28-3 (d) On appeal to the referring court, the parties may  
 28-4 present witnesses as in a hearing de novo on the issues raised in  
 28-5 the appeal.

28-6 (e) Notice of any appeal to the referring court shall be  
 28-7 given to opposing counsel in the manner provided by Rule 21a, Texas  
 28-8 Rules of Civil Procedure.

28-9 (f) If an appeal to the referring court is filed by a party,  
 28-10 any other party may file an appeal to the referring court not later  
 28-11 than the seventh day after the date the initial appeal was filed.

28-12 (g) The referring court, after notice to the parties, shall  
 28-13 hold a hearing on all appeals not later than the 30th day after the  
 28-14 date on which the initial appeal was filed with the referring court.

28-15 (h) Before a hearing before an associate judge, the parties  
 28-16 may waive the right of appeal to the referring court. The waiver  
 28-17 may be in writing or on the record.

28-18 Sec. 54B.017. APPELLATE REVIEW. (a) Failure to appeal to  
 28-19 the referring court, by waiver or otherwise, on the approval by the  
 28-20 referring court of an associate judge's report does not deprive any  
 28-21 party of the right to appeal to or request other relief from a court  
 28-22 of appeals or the supreme court.

28-23 (b) The date of the signing of an order or judgment by the  
 28-24 referring court is the controlling date for the purposes of an  
 28-25 appeal to or a request for other relief from a court of appeals or  
 28-26 the supreme court.

28-27 Sec. 54B.018. JURY TRIAL DEMANDED. If a jury trial is  
 28-28 demanding and a jury fee paid in a trial on the merits, the associate  
 28-29 judge shall refer any matters requiring a jury back to the referring  
 28-30 court for a full trial before the court and jury.

28-31 Sec. 54B.019. INAPPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER TO MASTERS  
 28-32 APPOINTED UNDER RULE 171. Masters appointed by the referring court  
 28-33 under Rule 171, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, have all the duties  
 28-34 and powers set forth in the order of appointment and are not  
 28-35 governed by this subchapter.

28-36 Sec. 54B.020. IMMUNITY. An associate judge appointed under  
 28-37 this subchapter has the judicial immunity of a district judge.

28-38 Sec. 54B.021. COURT REPORTER. (a) A court reporter is not  
 28-39 required during a hearing held by an associate judge appointed  
 28-40 under this subchapter.

28-41 (b) A party, the associate judge, or the referring court may  
 28-42 provide for a court reporter during the hearing. The record may be  
 28-43 preserved by any other means approved by the associate judge.

28-44 (c) The referring court or associate judge may impose on a  
 28-45 party as costs the expense of preserving the record.

28-46 SECTION 5.006. Section 602.007, Government Code, is amended  
 28-47 to read as follows:

28-48 Sec. 602.007. FILING OF OATH MADE BY CERTAIN JUDICIAL  
 28-49 OFFICERS AND JUDICIAL APPOINTEES. The oath made and signed  
 28-50 statement executed as required by Section 1, Article XVI, Texas  
 28-51 Constitution, by any of the following judicial officers and  
 28-52 judicial appointees shall be filed with the secretary of state:

28-53 (1) an officer appointed by the supreme court, the  
 28-54 court of criminal appeals, or the State Bar of Texas; ~~and~~

28-55 (2) an associate judge appointed under Subchapter B or  
 28-56 C, Chapter 201, Family Code; and

28-57 (3) a retired or former judge on the list maintained by  
 28-58 the presiding judge of an administrative judicial region under  
 28-59 Section 74.055.

28-60 ARTICLE 6. PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

28-61 SECTION 6.001. Section 41.013, Government Code, is amended  
 28-62 to read as follows:

28-63 Sec. 41.013. COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN PROSECUTORS. (a)  
 28-64 Except as otherwise provided by law, a district attorney or  
 28-65 criminal district attorney is entitled to receive from the state:

28-66 (1) annual compensation in an amount equal to at least  
 28-67 80 percent of the state annual salary as set by the General  
 28-68 Appropriations Act in accordance with Section 659.012 paid to a  
 28-69 district judge with comparable years of service as the district  
 28-70 attorney or criminal district attorney; and

28-71 (2) a monthly amount of longevity pay based on the

29-1 district attorney's or criminal district attorney's years of  
29-2 service that would be paid to the district attorney or criminal  
29-3 district attorney under Section 659.0445 if the district attorney  
29-4 or criminal district attorney were a judge or justice described by  
29-5 Section 659.0445(a).

29-6 (b) For purposes of this section, the years of service of a  
29-7 district attorney or criminal district attorney include any years  
29-8 of service as:

29-9 (1) a district attorney, criminal district attorney,  
29-10 or county attorney; or

29-11 (2) an appellate court justice, district judge, judge  
29-12 of a statutory county court, judge of a multicounty statutory  
29-13 county court, or judge or justice of a statutory probate court.

29-14 SECTION 6.002. Section 45.315, Government Code, is amended  
29-15 to read as follows:

29-16 Sec. 45.315. STEPHENS COUNTY. (a) The county attorney  
29-17 shall represent the state in all criminal cases before the County  
29-18 Court of Stephens County.

29-19 (b) The county attorney of Stephens County shall represent  
29-20 the state in all misdemeanor cases before the district court of the  
29-21 county.

29-22 SECTION 6.003. Section 46.003, Government Code, is amended  
29-23 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as  
29-24 follows:

29-25 (a) The state prosecuting attorney and each state  
29-26 prosecutor is entitled to receive from the state:

29-27 (1) a salary in an amount equal to the state annual  
29-28 salary as set by the General Appropriations Act in accordance with  
29-29 Section 659.012 paid to a district judge with comparable years of  
29-30 service as the state prosecuting attorney or state prosecutor; and

29-31 (2) a monthly amount of longevity pay based on the  
29-32 state prosecuting attorney's or state prosecutor's years of service  
29-33 that would be paid to the state prosecuting attorney or state  
29-34 prosecutor under Section 659.0445 if the state prosecuting attorney  
29-35 or state prosecutor were a judge or justice described by Section  
29-36 659.0445(a).

29-37 (a-1) For purposes of this section, the years of service of  
29-38 the state prosecuting attorney or a state prosecutor include any  
29-39 years of service as:

29-40 (1) a county attorney; or

29-41 (2) an appellate court justice, district judge, judge  
29-42 of a statutory county court, judge of a multicounty statutory  
29-43 county court, or judge or justice of a statutory probate court.

29-44 SECTION 6.004. Sections 41.013(a) and 46.003(a),  
29-45 Government Code, as amended by this article, apply beginning with  
29-46 the first pay period that begins on or after September 1, 2023.

29-47 ARTICLE 7. GRAND JURIES

29-48 SECTION 7.001. Article 19A.052, Code of Criminal Procedure,  
29-49 is amended to read as follows:

29-50 Art. 19A.052. QUALIFIED PERSONS SUMMONED. On directing the  
29-51 sheriff or clerk of the district court to summon grand jurors, the  
29-52 court shall instruct the sheriff or clerk of the district court to  
29-53 not summon a person to serve as a grand juror who does not possess  
29-54 the qualifications prescribed by law.

29-55 SECTION 7.002. Article 19A.053, Code of Criminal Procedure,  
29-56 is amended to read as follows:

29-57 Art. 19A.053. ADDITIONAL QUALIFIED PERSONS SUMMONED. (a)  
29-58 If fewer than 16 persons summoned to serve as grand jurors are found  
29-59 to be in attendance and qualified to serve, the court shall order  
29-60 the sheriff or clerk of the district court to summon an additional  
29-61 number of persons considered necessary to constitute a grand jury  
29-62 of 12 grand jurors and four alternate grand jurors.

29-63 (b) The sheriff or clerk of the district court shall summon  
29-64 the additional prospective grand jurors under Subsection (a) in  
29-65 person to attend before the court immediately.

29-66 SECTION 7.003. Article 19A.101, Code of Criminal Procedure,  
29-67 is amended to read as follows:

29-68 Art. 19A.101. GRAND JUROR QUALIFICATIONS. (a) A person may  
29-69 be selected or serve as a grand juror only if the person:

29-70 (1) is at least 18 years of age;

29-71 (2) is a citizen of the United States;

30-1 (3) is a resident of this state and of the county in  
30-2 which the person is to serve;

30-3 (4) is qualified under the constitution and other laws  
30-4 to vote in the county in which the grand jury is sitting, regardless  
30-5 of whether the person is registered to vote;

30-6 (5) is of sound mind and good moral character;

30-7 (6) is able to read and write;

30-8 (7) has never [~~not~~] been convicted of misdemeanor  
30-9 theft or a felony;

30-10 (8) is not under indictment or other legal accusation  
30-11 for misdemeanor theft or a felony;

30-12 (9) is not related within the third degree by  
30-13 consanguinity or second degree by affinity, as determined under  
30-14 Chapter 573, Government Code, to any person selected to serve or  
30-15 serving on the same grand jury;

30-16 (10) has not served as a grand juror in the year before  
30-17 the date on which the term of court for which the person has been  
30-18 selected as a grand juror begins; and

30-19 (11) is not a complainant in any matter to be heard by  
30-20 the grand jury during the term of court for which the person has  
30-21 been selected as a grand juror.

30-22 (b) On the third business day of each month, the clerk of the  
30-23 district court shall prepare a list of persons who in the preceding  
30-24 month were disqualified from serving as a grand juror based on the  
30-25 person's citizenship or indictment or conviction for misdemeanor  
30-26 theft or a felony and send a copy of the list to:

30-27 (1) the secretary of state; and

30-28 (2) the prosecuting attorney for the court to which  
30-29 the grand jurors were summoned for investigation into whether any  
30-30 person made a false claim concerning the person's qualification  
30-31 under Subsection (a)(2), (7), or (8).

30-32 SECTION 7.004. Articles 19A.052, 19A.053, and 19A.101, Code  
30-33 of Criminal Procedure, as amended by this article, apply only to the  
30-34 summoning of grand jurors on or after September 1, 2023. The  
30-35 summoning of grand jurors before September 1, 2023, is governed by  
30-36 the law in effect immediately before September 1, 2023, and the  
30-37 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

30-38 ARTICLE 8. JURORS AND JURY SERVICE

30-39 SECTION 8.001. Section 61.001(a), Government Code, is  
30-40 amended to read as follows:

30-41 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a person who  
30-42 reports for jury service in response to the process of a court is  
30-43 entitled to receive as reimbursement for travel and other expenses  
30-44 an amount:

30-45 (1) not less than \$20 [~~\$6~~] for the first day or  
30-46 fraction of the first day the person is in attendance in court in  
30-47 response to the process and discharges the person's duty for that  
30-48 day; and

30-49 (2) not less than \$58 [~~\$40~~] for each day or fraction of  
30-50 each day the person is in attendance in court in response to the  
30-51 process after the first day and discharges the person's duty for  
30-52 that day.

30-53 SECTION 8.002. Section 61.0015(a), Government Code, is  
30-54 amended to read as follows:

30-55 (a) The state shall reimburse a county:

30-56 (1) \$14 a day for the reimbursement paid under Section  
30-57 61.001(a)(1) to a person who reports for jury service in response to  
30-58 the process of a court for the first day or fraction of the first day  
30-59 in attendance in court in response to the process; and

30-60 (2) \$52 [~~\$34~~] a day for the reimbursement paid under  
30-61 Section 61.001(a)(2) [~~61.001~~] to a person who reports for jury  
30-62 service in response to the process of a court for each day or  
30-63 fraction of each day after the first day in attendance in court in  
30-64 response to the process.

30-65 SECTION 8.003. Sections 61.003(a) and (b), Government Code,  
30-66 are amended to read as follows:

30-67 (a) Each [~~After jury service is concluded, each~~] person who  
30-68 reports [~~reported~~] for jury service shall be [~~personally~~] provided  
30-69 the opportunity, either through a written form or electronically,  
30-70 to direct [~~a form letter that when signed by the person directs~~] the  
30-71 county treasurer or a designated county employee to donate all,

31-1 [~~or~~] a specific amount designated by the person, or the entire  
 31-2 amount divided among the funds, programs, and county entities  
 31-3 listed in this subsection of the person's daily reimbursement under  
 31-4 this chapter to:

31-5 (1) the compensation to victims of crime fund  
 31-6 established under Subchapter J, Chapter 56B, Code of Criminal  
 31-7 Procedure;

31-8 (2) the child welfare, child protective services, or  
 31-9 child services board of the county appointed under Section 264.005,  
 31-10 Family Code, that serves abused and neglected children;

31-11 (3) any program selected by the commissioners court  
 31-12 that is operated by a public or private nonprofit organization and  
 31-13 that provides shelter and services to victims of family violence;

31-14 (4) any other program approved by the commissioners  
 31-15 court of the county, including a program established under Article  
 31-16 56A.205, Code of Criminal Procedure, that offers psychological  
 31-17 counseling in criminal cases involving graphic evidence or  
 31-18 testimony;

31-19 (5) a veterans treatment court program established by  
 31-20 the commissioners court as provided by Chapter 124; or

31-21 (6) a veterans county service office established by  
 31-22 the commissioners court as provided by Subchapter B, Chapter 434.

31-23 (b) The county treasurer or a designated county employee  
 31-24 shall collect any information provided under Subsection (a) [~~each~~  
 31-25 ~~form letter~~] directing the county treasurer to donate the  
 31-26 reimbursement of a person who reports to jury service.

31-27 SECTION 8.004. Sections 62.001(a) and (b), Government Code,  
 31-28 are amended to read as follows:

31-29 (a) The jury wheel must be reconstituted by using, as the  
 31-30 source:

31-31 (1) the names of all persons on the current voter  
 31-32 registration lists from all the precincts in the county; and

31-33 (2) all names on a current list to be furnished by the  
 31-34 Department of Public Safety, showing the citizens of the county  
 31-35 who:

31-36 (A) hold a valid Texas driver's license or a  
 31-37 valid personal identification card or certificate issued by the  
 31-38 department; and

31-39 (B) are not disqualified from jury service under  
 31-40 Section 62.102(1), (2), or (8) [~~(7)~~].

31-41 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the names of persons  
 31-42 listed on a register of persons exempt from jury service may not be  
 31-43 placed in the jury wheel, as provided by Sections 62.108, [~~and~~  
 31-44 62.109, 62.113, 62.114, and 62.115].

31-45 SECTION 8.005. Section 62.0111(b), Government Code, is  
 31-46 amended to read as follows:

31-47 (b) A plan adopted under Subsection (a) may allow for a  
 31-48 prospective juror to provide information to the county officer  
 31-49 responsible for summoning jurors or for the county officer to  
 31-50 provide information to the prospective juror by computer or  
 31-51 automated telephone system, including:

31-52 (1) information that permits the court to determine  
 31-53 whether the prospective juror is qualified for jury service under  
 31-54 Section 62.102;

31-55 (2) information that permits the court to determine  
 31-56 whether the prospective juror is exempt from jury service under  
 31-57 Section 62.106;

31-58 (3) submission of a request by the prospective juror  
 31-59 for a postponement of or excuse from jury service under Section  
 31-60 62.110;

31-61 (4) information for jury assignment under Section  
 31-62 62.016, including:

31-63 (A) the prospective juror's postponement status;

31-64 (B) if the prospective juror could potentially  
 31-65 serve on a jury in a justice court, the residency of the prospective  
 31-66 juror; and

31-67 (C) if the prospective juror could potentially  
 31-68 serve on a jury in a criminal matter, whether the prospective juror  
 31-69 has been convicted of misdemeanor theft;

31-70 (5) completion and submission by the prospective juror  
 31-71 of the written juror [~~jury summons~~] questionnaire under Section

32-1 [62.0132](#);  
 32-2 (6) the prospective juror's electronic mail address;  
 32-3 and  
 32-4 (7) notification to the prospective juror by  
 32-5 electronic mail of:  
 32-6 (A) whether the prospective juror is qualified  
 32-7 for jury service;  
 32-8 (B) the status of the exemption, postponement, or  
 32-9 judicial excuse request of the prospective juror; or  
 32-10 (C) whether the prospective juror has been  
 32-11 assigned to a jury panel.

32-12 SECTION 8.006. Section [62.012\(b\)](#), Government Code, is  
 32-13 amended to read as follows:

32-14 (b) On receiving the notice from the judge, the clerk shall  
 32-15 immediately write on the jury list the date that the prospective  
 32-16 jurors are to be summoned to appear and shall either:

32-17 (1) summon the prospective jurors directly in the same  
 32-18 manner a sheriff or constable would summon a juror under Section  
 32-19 [62.013](#); or

32-20 (2) deliver the jury list to:  
 32-21 (A) [~~1~~] the sheriff, for a county or district  
 32-22 court jury; or  
 32-23 (B) [~~2~~] the sheriff or constable, for a justice  
 32-24 court jury.

32-25 SECTION 8.007. The heading to Section [62.013](#), Government  
 32-26 Code, is amended to read as follows:

32-27 Sec. [62.013](#). SUMMONS FOR JURY SERVICE BY CLERK, SHERIFF, OR  
 32-28 CONSTABLE.

32-29 SECTION 8.008. Sections [62.013\(a\)](#) and (b), Government Code,  
 32-30 are amended to read as follows:

32-31 (a) Except as provided by Section [62.014](#), the clerk,  
 32-32 sheriff, or constable, on receipt of a jury list from a county or  
 32-33 district clerk, shall immediately notify the persons whose names  
 32-34 are on the list to appear for jury service on the date designated by  
 32-35 the judge.

32-36 (b) The clerk, sheriff, or constable shall notify each  
 32-37 prospective juror to appear for jury service:

32-38 (1) by an oral summons; or  
 32-39 (2) if the judge ordering the summons so directs, by a  
 32-40 written summons sent by registered mail or certified mail, return  
 32-41 receipt requested, or by first class mail to the address on the jury  
 32-42 wheel card or the address on the current voter registration list of  
 32-43 the county.

32-44 SECTION 8.009. Sections [62.0131\(b\)](#) and (c), Government  
 32-45 Code, are amended to read as follows:

32-46 (b) The model must include:

32-47 (1) the option to provide:  
 32-48 (A) the exemptions and restrictions governing  
 32-49 jury service under Subchapter B; or  
 32-50 (B) the electronic address of the court's  
 32-51 Internet website on which is posted the exemptions and restrictions  
 32-52 governing jury service under Subchapter B; ~~and~~

32-53 (2) the information under Chapter [122](#), Civil Practice  
 32-54 and Remedies Code, relating to the duties of an employer with regard  
 32-55 to an employee who is summoned for jury service;

32-56 (3) notice of the contempt action to which the person  
 32-57 summoned for jury service is subject under Section [62.0141](#) for  
 32-58 failure to comply with the jury summons; and

32-59 (4) the option to:  
 32-60 (A) include in the jury summons the juror  
 32-61 questionnaire required by Section [62.0132](#);

32-62 (B) provide the electronic address of the court's  
 32-63 Internet website from which the juror questionnaire may be easily  
 32-64 printed; or

32-65 (C) in counties in which the district and  
 32-66 criminal district judges adopted a plan for an electronic jury  
 32-67 selection method under Section [62.011](#), provide the electronic  
 32-68 address of the court's Internet website for the prospective juror  
 32-69 to access and complete the juror questionnaire.

32-70 (c) A written jury summons must conform with the model  
 32-71 established under this section and must be 3-1/2 by 5 inches or

33-1 larger in size.

33-2 SECTION 8.010. The heading to Section 62.0132, Government  
33-3 Code, is amended to read as follows:

33-4 Sec. 62.0132. JUROR [~~WRITTEN JURY SUMMONS~~] QUESTIONNAIRE.

33-5 SECTION 8.011. Sections 62.0132(c) and (d), Government  
33-6 Code, are amended to read as follows:

33-7 (c) The questionnaire must require a person to provide  
33-8 biographical and demographic information that is relevant to  
33-9 service as a jury member, including the person's:

33-10 (1) name, sex, race, and age;

33-11 (2) residence address and mailing address;

33-12 (3) education level, occupation, and place of  
33-13 employment;

33-14 (4) marital status and the name, occupation, and place  
33-15 of employment of the person's spouse; [~~and~~]

33-16 (5) citizenship status and county of residence; and

33-17 (6) any electronic address.

33-18 (d) Except as provided by this subsection, a person who has  
33-19 received a [~~written~~] jury summons shall complete and submit a juror  
33-20 [~~jury summons~~] questionnaire when the person reports for jury duty.  
33-21 If the district and criminal district judges of a county adopt a  
33-22 plan for an electronic jury selection method under Section 62.011,  
33-23 the county may allow a person to complete and submit a juror [~~jury~~  
33-24 ~~summons~~] questionnaire on the court's Internet website as  
33-25 authorized under Section 62.011(b)(5).

33-26 SECTION 8.012. The heading to Section 62.014, Government  
33-27 Code, is amended to read as follows:

33-28 Sec. 62.014. SUMMONS FOR JURY SERVICE BY CLERKS, SHERIFFS,  
33-29 OR BAILIFFS.

33-30 SECTION 8.013. Section 62.014(a), Government Code, is  
33-31 amended to read as follows:

33-32 (a) In a county with at least nine district courts, the  
33-33 district judges may direct that prospective jurors be summoned for  
33-34 jury service by the clerk, the sheriff, or [~~by~~] a bailiff, or an  
33-35 assistant or deputy bailiff, in charge of the central jury room and  
33-36 the general panel of the county.

33-37 SECTION 8.014. Section 62.0145, Government Code, is amended  
33-38 to read as follows:

33-39 Sec. 62.0145. REMOVAL OF CERTAIN PERSONS FROM POOL OF  
33-40 PROSPECTIVE JURORS. Except as provided by Section 62.0146, if a  
33-41 written summons for jury service sent by a clerk, sheriff,  
33-42 constable, or bailiff is undeliverable, the county or district  
33-43 clerk may remove from the jury wheel the jury wheel card for the  
33-44 person summoned or the district clerk, or in a county with a  
33-45 population of at least 1.7 million and in which more than 75 percent  
33-46 of the population resides in a single municipality, a bailiff  
33-47 appointed as provided under Section 62.019, may remove the person's  
33-48 name from the record of names for selection of persons for jury  
33-49 service under Section 62.011.

33-50 SECTION 8.015. Section 62.0146, Government Code, is amended  
33-51 to read as follows:

33-52 Sec. 62.0146. UPDATING ADDRESSES OF CERTAIN PERSONS IN POOL  
33-53 OF PROSPECTIVE JURORS. If a written summons for jury service sent  
33-54 by a clerk, sheriff, constable, or bailiff is returned with a  
33-55 notation from the United States Postal Service of a change of  
33-56 address for the person summoned, the county or district clerk may  
33-57 update the jury wheel card to reflect the person's new address.

33-58 SECTION 8.016. Section 62.015(b), Government Code, is  
33-59 amended to read as follows:

33-60 (b) If the court at any time does not have a sufficient  
33-61 number of prospective jurors present whose names are on the jury  
33-62 lists and who are not excused by the judge from jury service, the  
33-63 judge shall order the clerk, sheriff, or constable to summon  
33-64 additional prospective jurors to provide the requisite number of  
33-65 jurors for the panel. The names of additional jurors to be summoned  
33-66 by the clerk, sheriff, or constable to fill a jury panel shall be  
33-67 drawn from the jury wheel under orders of the judge. Additional  
33-68 jurors summoned to fill a jury panel shall be discharged when their  
33-69 services are no longer required.

33-70 SECTION 8.017. Section 62.016(d), Government Code, is  
33-71 amended to read as follows:

34-1 (d) The clerk or sheriff shall notify the persons whose  
 34-2 names are drawn from the jury wheel to appear before the designated  
 34-3 judge for jury service. The judge shall hear the excuses of the  
 34-4 prospective jurors and swear them in for jury service for the week  
 34-5 for which they are to serve as jurors.

34-6 SECTION 8.018. Section 62.017(d), Government Code, is  
 34-7 amended to read as follows:

34-8 (d) The clerk or sheriff shall notify the persons whose  
 34-9 names are drawn from the jury wheel to appear before the designated  
 34-10 judge for jury service. The judge shall hear the excuses of the  
 34-11 prospective jurors and swear them in for jury service for the week  
 34-12 for which they are to serve as jurors.

34-13 SECTION 8.019. Section 62.0175(d), Government Code, is  
 34-14 amended to read as follows:

34-15 (d) The clerk or sheriff shall notify the persons whose  
 34-16 names are drawn from the jury wheel to appear before the district  
 34-17 judge for jury service. The judge shall hear the excuses of the  
 34-18 prospective jurors and swear them in for jury service for the week  
 34-19 for which they are to serve as jurors.

34-20 SECTION 8.020. Section 62.106(a), Government Code, is  
 34-21 amended to read as follows:

34-22 (a) A person qualified to serve as a petit juror may  
 34-23 establish an exemption from jury service if the person:

- 34-24 (1) is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age;
- 34-25 (2) has legal custody of a child younger than 12 years  
 34-26 of age and the person's service on the jury requires leaving the  
 34-27 child without adequate supervision;
- 34-28 (3) is a student of a public or private secondary  
 34-29 school;

34-30 (4) is a person enrolled and in actual attendance at an  
 34-31 institution of higher education;

34-32 (5) is an officer or an employee of the senate, the  
 34-33 house of representatives, or any department, commission, board,  
 34-34 office, or other agency in the legislative branch of state  
 34-35 government;

34-36 (6) is summoned for service in a county with a  
 34-37 population of at least 200,000, unless that county uses a jury plan  
 34-38 under Section 62.011 and the period authorized under Section  
 34-39 62.011(b)(5) exceeds two years, and the person has served as a petit  
 34-40 juror in the county during the 24-month period preceding the date  
 34-41 the person is to appear for jury service;

34-42 (7) is the primary caretaker of a person who is unable  
 34-43 to care for himself or herself;

34-44 (8) except as provided by Subsection (b), is summoned  
 34-45 for service in a county with a population of at least 250,000 and  
 34-46 the person has served as a petit juror in the county during the  
 34-47 three-year period preceding the date the person is to appear for  
 34-48 jury service; or

34-49 (9) is a member of the United States military forces  
 34-50 serving on active duty and deployed to a location away from the  
 34-51 person's home station and out of the person's county of residence.

34-52 SECTION 8.021. Section 62.107(c), Government Code, is  
 34-53 amended to read as follows:

34-54 (c) A person who files a statement with a clerk of the court,  
 34-55 as provided by Subsection (a), claiming an exemption because the  
 34-56 person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age, may also claim the permanent  
 34-57 exemption on that ground authorized by Section 62.108 by including  
 34-58 in the statement filed with the clerk a declaration that the person  
 34-59 desires the permanent exemption. Promptly after a statement  
 34-60 claiming a permanent exemption on the basis of age is filed, the  
 34-61 clerk of the court with whom it is filed shall have a copy delivered  
 34-62 to the voter registrar of the county.

34-63 SECTION 8.022. Sections 62.108(a), (b), (c), and (e),  
 34-64 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

34-65 (a) A person who is entitled to exemption from jury service  
 34-66 because the person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age may establish a  
 34-67 permanent exemption on that ground as provided by this section or  
 34-68 Section 62.107.

34-69 (b) A person may claim a permanent exemption:

- 34-70 (1) by filing with the voter registrar of the county,  
 34-71 by mail or personal delivery, a signed statement affirming that the

35-1 person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age and desires a permanent  
 35-2 exemption on that ground; or

35-3 (2) in the manner provided by Section 62.107(c).

35-4 (c) The voter registrar of the county shall maintain a  
 35-5 current register indicating the name of each person who has claimed  
 35-6 and is entitled to a permanent exemption from jury service because  
 35-7 the person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age.

35-8 (e) A person who has claimed a permanent exemption from jury  
 35-9 service because the person is over 75 [~~70~~] years of age may rescind  
 35-10 the exemption at any time by filing a signed request for the  
 35-11 rescission with the voter registrar of the county. Rescission of a  
 35-12 permanent exemption does not affect the right of a person who is  
 35-13 over 75 [~~70~~] years of age to claim permanent exemption at a later  
 35-14 time.

35-15 SECTION 8.023. Section 62.109(c), Government Code, is  
 35-16 amended to read as follows:

35-17 (c) The clerk of the district court shall promptly notify  
 35-18 the voter registrar of the county of the name and address of each  
 35-19 person permanently exempted [~~and state whether the exemption is~~  
 35-20 ~~permanent or for a specified period~~]. The voter registrar shall  
 35-21 maintain a current register showing [~~separately~~] the name and  
 35-22 address of each person permanently exempt from jury service under  
 35-23 this section [~~and the name and address of each person exempt from~~  
 35-24 ~~jury service under this section for a specified period~~].

35-25 SECTION 8.024. Subchapter B, Chapter 62, Government Code,  
 35-26 is amended by adding Section 62.115 to read as follows:

35-27 Sec. 62.115. COMPILATION OF LIST OF CONVICTED PERSONS. (a)  
 35-28 The clerk of the court shall maintain a list of the name and address  
 35-29 of each person who is disqualified under this subchapter from jury  
 35-30 service because the person was convicted of misdemeanor theft or a  
 35-31 felony.

35-32 (b) A person who was convicted of misdemeanor theft or a  
 35-33 felony shall be permanently disqualified from serving as a juror. A  
 35-34 person is exempt from this section if the person:

35-35 (1) was placed on deferred adjudication and received a  
 35-36 dismissal and discharge in accordance with Article 42A.111, Code of  
 35-37 Criminal Procedure;

35-38 (2) was placed on community supervision and the period  
 35-39 of community supervision was terminated early under Article  
 35-40 42A.701, Code of Criminal Procedure; or

35-41 (3) was pardoned or has had the person's civil rights  
 35-42 restored.

35-43 (c) The district clerk may remove from the jury wheel the  
 35-44 jury wheel card for the person whose name appears on the list.

35-45 (d) On the third business day of each month, the clerk shall  
 35-46 send to the secretary of state a copy of the list of persons  
 35-47 disqualified because of a conviction of misdemeanor theft or a  
 35-48 felony in the preceding month.

35-49 SECTION 8.025. Section 62.411(a), Government Code, is  
 35-50 amended to read as follows:

35-51 (a) In addition to other methods of jury selection provided  
 35-52 by this chapter, a justice of the peace may issue a writ commanding  
 35-53 the clerk, sheriff, or constable to immediately summon a venire  
 35-54 from which six qualified persons may be selected for jury service  
 35-55 if:

35-56 (1) a jury case is pending for trial at a term of  
 35-57 justice court; or

35-58 (2) the court does not have a sufficient number of  
 35-59 prospective jurors present whose names are on the jury list and who  
 35-60 are not excused from jury service.

35-61 SECTION 8.026. Section 62.412(c), Government Code, is  
 35-62 amended to read as follows:

35-63 (c) A justice of the peace may command the clerk, sheriff,  
 35-64 or constable to immediately summon additional persons for jury  
 35-65 service in the justice court if the number of qualified jurors,  
 35-66 including persons summoned under Section 62.016, is less than the  
 35-67 number necessary for the justice court to conduct its proceedings.

35-68 SECTION 8.027. Sections 62.0111(c) and 62.0132(b),  
 35-69 Government Code, are repealed.

35-70 SECTION 8.028. Sections 62.106(a), 62.107(c), and  
 35-71 62.108(a), (b), (c), and (e), Government Code, as amended by this

36-1 article, apply only to an exemption from jury service for a person  
 36-2 who is summoned to appear for service on or after September 1, 2023.  
 36-3 An exemption from jury service for a person who is summoned to  
 36-4 appear for service before September 1, 2023, is covered by the law  
 36-5 in effect when the person was summoned, and that law is continued in  
 36-6 effect for that purpose.

36-7 ARTICLE 9. COURT REPORTERS AND INTERPRETERS

36-8 SECTION 9.001. Section 52.041, Government Code, is amended  
 36-9 to read as follows:

36-10 Sec. 52.041. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER. (a)  
 36-11 Each judge of a court of record shall appoint an official court  
 36-12 reporter. An official court reporter is a sworn officer of the  
 36-13 court and holds office at the pleasure of the court.

36-14 (b) The judges of two or more courts of record that are not  
 36-15 located in the same judicial district on agreement may jointly  
 36-16 appoint an official court reporter to serve the courts, provided  
 36-17 each court is located in a county with a population of 125,000 or  
 36-18 less according to the 2020 federal decennial census.

36-19 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, two or more judges of  
 36-20 courts of record may appoint a certified shorthand reporter to  
 36-21 serve each court as an official court reporter of the court,  
 36-22 provided each court is located in a county with a population of  
 36-23 125,000 or less according to the 2020 federal decennial census. A  
 36-24 certified shorthand reporter appointed under this subsection may  
 36-25 serve as an official court reporter for more than one county and be  
 36-26 an employee of more than one county.

36-27 SECTION 9.002. Section 52.055(d), Government Code, is  
 36-28 amended to read as follows:

36-29 (d) The expenses reimbursed under this section are subject  
 36-30 to annual limitations based on the size of the judicial district.  
 36-31 Except as provided by Subsection (d-1), a court reporter may not  
 36-32 receive more than the maximum reimbursement amount set for the  
 36-33 reporter's judicial district in any one year. The maximum  
 36-34 reimbursement amount is as follows:

36-35 (1) if the judicial district contains two counties,  
 36-36 the maximum reimbursement amount is \$400 or a greater amount set by  
 36-37 the commissioners court of the county for which the expenses were  
 36-38 incurred;

36-39 (2) if the judicial district contains three counties,  
 36-40 the maximum reimbursement amount is \$800 or a greater amount set by  
 36-41 the commissioners court of the county for which the expenses were  
 36-42 incurred;

36-43 (3) if the judicial district contains four counties,  
 36-44 the maximum reimbursement amount is \$1,400 or a greater amount set  
 36-45 by the commissioners court of the county for which the expenses were  
 36-46 incurred; and

36-47 (4) if the judicial district contains five or more  
 36-48 counties, the maximum reimbursement amount is \$2,000 or a greater  
 36-49 amount set by the commissioners court of the county for which the  
 36-50 expenses were incurred.

36-51 SECTION 9.003. Section 52.056(a), Government Code, is  
 36-52 amended to read as follows:

36-53 (a) An official or deputy court reporter of a judicial  
 36-54 district who is required to leave the county of the reporter's [his]  
 36-55 residence to report proceedings as a substitute for the official  
 36-56 court reporter of another county is entitled to reimbursement for  
 36-57 actual and necessary travel expenses and a per diem allowance of \$30  
 36-58 or the amount provided by the travel per diem policy of the county  
 36-59 for which the expenses were incurred, whichever is greater, for  
 36-60 each day or part of a day spent outside the reporter's [his] county  
 36-61 of residence in the performance of duties as a substitute. These  
 36-62 fees are in addition to the visiting reporter's regular salary.

36-63 SECTION 9.004. Section 52.058(b), Government Code, is  
 36-64 amended to read as follows:

36-65 (b) Travel expenses reimbursed under this section may not  
 36-66 exceed the mileage reimbursement rate established by the county [25  
 36-67 cents per mile] for the use of private conveyances, traveling the  
 36-68 shortest practical route.

36-69 SECTION 9.005. Sections 57.001(1) and (9), Government Code,  
 36-70 are amended to read as follows:

36-71 (1) "Certified court interpreter" means an individual

37-1 who is a qualified interpreter as defined in Article 38.31, Code of  
 37-2 Criminal Procedure, or Section 21.003, Civil Practice and Remedies  
 37-3 Code, or is qualified in accordance with the communication access  
 37-4 realtime translation services eligibility requirements established  
 37-5 by the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services of the Health and  
 37-6 Human Services Commission, [~~certified under Subchapter B by the~~  
 37-7 ~~Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services]~~ to interpret  
 37-8 court proceedings for a hearing-impaired individual.

37-9 (9) "Certified CART provider" means an individual who  
 37-10 holds a certification to provide communication access realtime  
 37-11 translation services at an advanced or master level, including:

37-12 (A) a level I through level V certificate of  
 37-13 competency issued by the Texas Court Reporters Association;

37-14 (B) a certified realtime reporter, certified  
 37-15 realtime captioner, or other equivalent certified CART provider  
 37-16 certificate of competency issued by the National Court Reporters  
 37-17 Association; or

37-18 (C) a certificate of competency issued by another  
 37-19 certification association selected by the department.

37-20 SECTION 9.006. (a) Section 154.051, Government Code, is  
 37-21 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (f-1) to  
 37-22 read as follows:

37-23 (a) The Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board is  
 37-24 established as an advisory board to the commission. The advisory  
 37-25 board is composed of at least nine [~~seven~~] members appointed by the  
 37-26 supreme court as follows:

37-27 (1) one active district judge presiding over a court  
 37-28 that employs an official court reporter;

37-29 (2) one active attorney licensed in this state who has  
 37-30 been a practicing member of the State Bar for more than the five  
 37-31 years immediately preceding the attorney's appointment to the  
 37-32 advisory board;

37-33 (3) two certified shorthand [~~active official court~~  
 37-34 reporters actively engaged in the practice of official court [~~who~~  
 37-35 ~~have practiced shorthand]~~ reporting in this state for more than the  
 37-36 five years immediately preceding their appointment to the advisory  
 37-37 board;

37-38 (4) two [~~active~~] certified shorthand reporters  
 37-39 actively engaged in the practice of [~~who work on a freelance basis~~  
 37-40 ~~and who have practiced]~~ shorthand reporting on a freelance basis  
 37-41 for more than the five years immediately preceding their  
 37-42 appointment to the advisory board; [~~and~~]

37-43 (5) one certified shorthand reporter actively engaged  
 37-44 in practice as a captioner in this state for more than the five  
 37-45 years immediately preceding the captioner's appointment to the  
 37-46 advisory board; and

37-47 (6) two certified shorthand reporters who:

37-48 (A) own a shorthand reporting firm in this state;  
 37-49 and

37-50 (B) have owned and [~~one representative of a~~  
 37-51 ~~shorthand reporting firm that has]~~ operated [~~as~~] a shorthand  
 37-52 reporting firm in this state for more than the five [~~three~~] years  
 37-53 immediately preceding their [~~the representative's~~] appointment to  
 37-54 the advisory board.

37-55 (f-1) Not later than the 90th day before the expiration of  
 37-56 an advisory board member's term, the commission:

37-57 (1) shall post on the commission's Internet website  
 37-58 notice of the availability of the membership position;

37-59 (2) shall accept resumes from and conduct interviews  
 37-60 of any qualified individuals interested in appointment to the  
 37-61 position; and

37-62 (3) may recommend to the supreme court one or more of  
 37-63 the qualified individuals for appointment to the advisory board.

37-64 (b) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this  
 37-65 Act, the Texas Supreme Court shall appoint two additional members  
 37-66 of the Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board in accordance  
 37-67 with Section 154.051(a), Government Code, as amended by this  
 37-68 article.

37-69 (c) Section 154.051, Government Code, as amended by this  
 37-70 article, modifying the qualifications of members of the Court  
 37-71 Reporters Certification Advisory Board does not affect the

38-1 entitlement of a member serving on the advisory board immediately  
 38-2 before September 1, 2023, to continue to carry out the member's  
 38-3 functions for the remainder of the member's term. Section 154.051,  
 38-4 Government Code, as amended by this article, applies only to a  
 38-5 member appointed or reappointed on or after September 1, 2023. This  
 38-6 article does not prohibit a person who is a member of the advisory  
 38-7 board before that date from being reappointed to the advisory board  
 38-8 if the person has the qualifications required for membership under  
 38-9 Section 154.051, Government Code, as amended by this article.

38-10 SECTION 9.007. Sections 154.105(b), (c), and (d),  
 38-11 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

38-12 (b) A certified shorthand reporter may administer oaths to  
 38-13 witnesses[+]

38-14 [~~(1) anywhere in this state,~~

38-15 ~~(2) in a jurisdiction outside this state if:~~

38-16 [~~(A) the reporter is at the same location as the~~  
 38-17 ~~witness; and~~

38-18 [~~(B) the witness is or may be a witness in a case~~  
 38-19 ~~filed in this state; and~~

38-20 ~~(3) at any location authorized in a reciprocity~~  
 38-21 ~~agreement between this state and another jurisdiction under Section~~  
 38-22 ~~152.202(b).~~

38-23 [~~(c) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), a shorthand reporter~~  
 38-24 ~~may administer an oath as provided under this subsection to a person~~  
 38-25 ~~who is or may be a witness in a case filed in this state] without~~  
 38-26 ~~being at the same location as the witness[+]~~

38-27 [~~(1) if the reporter is physically located in this~~  
 38-28 ~~state at the time the oath is administered; or~~

38-29 [~~(2) as authorized in a reciprocity agreement between~~  
 38-30 ~~this state and another jurisdiction under Section 152.202(b) if:~~

38-31 [~~(A) the witness is at a location in the other~~  
 38-32 ~~jurisdiction; and~~

38-33 [~~(B) the reporter is at a location in the same~~  
 38-34 ~~jurisdiction as the witness].~~

38-35 (c) [~~(d)~~] The identity of a witness who is not in the  
 38-36 physical presence of a certified shorthand reporter may be proven  
 38-37 by:

38-38 (1) a statement under oath on the record by a party to  
 38-39 the case stating that the party has actual knowledge of the  
 38-40 witness's identity;

38-41 (2) a statement on the record by an attorney for a  
 38-42 party to the case, or an attorney for the witness, verifying the  
 38-43 witness's identity;

38-44 (3) a statement on the record by a notary who is in the  
 38-45 presence of the witness verifying the witness's identity; or

38-46 (4) the witness's presentation for inspection by the  
 38-47 court reporter of an official document issued by this state,  
 38-48 another state, a federal agency, or another jurisdiction that  
 38-49 verifies the witness's identity.

38-50 SECTION 9.008. The heading to Section 154.112, Government  
 38-51 Code, is amended to read as follows:

38-52 Sec. 154.112. EMPLOYMENT OF NONCERTIFIED PERSON FOR  
 38-53 SHORTHAND REPORTING; CIVIL PENALTY.

38-54 SECTION 9.009. Section 154.112, Government Code, is amended  
 38-55 by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (d), (e), (f),  
 38-56 (g), and (h) to read as follows:

38-57 (b) A person who is not certified as a court reporter may  
 38-58 engage in shorthand reporting to report an oral deposition only if:

38-59 (1) the uncertified person delivers an affidavit to  
 38-60 the parties or to their counsel before [~~present at~~] the deposition  
 38-61 begins stating that a certified shorthand reporter is not  
 38-62 available; or

38-63 (2) the parties or their counsel stipulate on the  
 38-64 record at the beginning of the deposition that a certified  
 38-65 shorthand reporter is not available.

38-66 (d) The person shall file the affidavit described by  
 38-67 Subsection (b)(1) with the court as part of the certification  
 38-68 required by Rule 203.2, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

38-69 (e) In addition to any other remedy authorized by law, the  
 38-70 commission may:

38-71 (1) collect a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed

39-1 \$1,000 from a person who fails to comply with Subsection (b)(1) or  
 39-2 (d); and

39-3 (2) seek injunctive relief for a second or subsequent  
 39-4 violation of Subsection (b)(1) or (d) to prohibit the person from  
 39-5 engaging in shorthand reporting unless the person is certified as a  
 39-6 court reporter under this chapter.

39-7 (f) The commission shall collect a civil penalty assessed  
 39-8 under Subsection (e)(1) following the same procedures the  
 39-9 commission uses in taking disciplinary action against a certified  
 39-10 court reporter for violating the laws and rules applicable to the  
 39-11 reporter.

39-12 (g) The attorney general, a county or district attorney  
 39-13 whose jurisdiction includes the location at which a deposition is  
 39-14 taken, or legal counsel the commission designates may represent the  
 39-15 commission for purposes of collecting the civil penalty or  
 39-16 obtaining the injunctive relief.

39-17 (h) In an action authorized by this section, the commission  
 39-18 may obtain reasonable attorney's fees, expenses, and costs incurred  
 39-19 in obtaining the civil penalty or injunctive relief.

39-20 SECTION 9.010. Section 154.105(e), Government Code, is  
 39-21 repealed.

39-22 SECTION 9.011. As soon as practicable after the effective  
 39-23 date of this Act, the Texas Supreme Court shall revise the Texas  
 39-24 Rules of Civil Procedure as the court determines necessary to  
 39-25 conform to the changes in law made by this Act to Section 154.112,  
 39-26 Government Code.

39-27 ARTICLE 10. DEPOSITION, TRANSCRIPTION, AND INTERPRETATION  
 39-28 SERVICES

39-29 SECTION 10.001. The heading to Section 20.001, Civil  
 39-30 Practice and Remedies Code, is amended to read as follows:

39-31 Sec. 20.001. PERSONS WHO MAY TAKE A DEPOSITION ON WRITTEN  
 39-32 QUESTIONS.

39-33 SECTION 10.002. Sections 20.001(b), (c), and (d), Civil  
 39-34 Practice and Remedies Code, are amended to read as follows:

39-35 (b) A deposition on written questions of a witness who is  
 39-36 alleged to reside or to be outside this state, but inside the United  
 39-37 States, may be taken in another state by:

- 39-38 (1) a clerk of a court of record having a seal;
- 39-39 (2) a commissioner of deeds appointed under the laws  
 39-40 of this state; or
- 39-41 (3) any notary public.

39-42 (c) A deposition on written questions of a witness who is  
 39-43 alleged to reside or to be outside the United States may be taken  
 39-44 by:

- 39-45 (1) a minister, commissioner, or charge d'affaires of  
 39-46 the United States who is a resident of and is accredited in the  
 39-47 country where the deposition is taken;
- 39-48 (2) a consul general, consul, vice-consul, commercial  
 39-49 agent, vice-commercial agent, deputy consul, or consular agent of  
 39-50 the United States who is a resident of the country where the  
 39-51 deposition is taken; or
- 39-52 (3) any notary public.

39-53 (d) A deposition on written questions of a witness who is  
 39-54 alleged to be a member of the United States Armed Forces or of a  
 39-55 United States Armed Forces Auxiliary or who is alleged to be a  
 39-56 civilian employed by or accompanying the armed forces or an  
 39-57 auxiliary outside the United States may be taken by a commissioned  
 39-58 officer in the United States Armed Forces or United States Armed  
 39-59 Forces Auxiliary or by a commissioned officer in the United States  
 39-60 Armed Forces Reserve or an auxiliary of it. If a deposition on  
 39-61 written questions appears on its face to have been taken as provided  
 39-62 by this subsection and the deposition or any part of it is offered  
 39-63 in evidence, it is presumed, absent pleading and proof to the  
 39-64 contrary, that the person taking the deposition as a commissioned  
 39-65 officer was a commissioned officer on the date that the deposition  
 39-66 was taken, and that the deponent was a member of the authorized  
 39-67 group of military personnel or civilians.

39-68 SECTION 10.003. Section 51.601, Government Code, is amended  
 39-69 to read as follows:

39-70 Sec. 51.601. COURT REPORTER SERVICE FUND. (a) [~~e~~] The  
 39-71 commissioners court of the county shall administer the court

40-1 reporter service fund to assist in the payment of  
 40-2 court-reporter-related services, that may include maintaining an  
 40-3 adequate number of court reporters to provide services to the  
 40-4 courts, obtaining court reporter transcription services,  
 40-5 closed-caption transcription machines, Braille transcription  
 40-6 services, or other transcription services, including a court  
 40-7 reporter's preparation of an appellate record under the Texas Rules  
 40-8 of Appellate Procedure and Rule 145, Texas Rules of Civil  
 40-9 Procedure, to comply with state or federal laws, or providing any  
 40-10 other service related to the functions of a court reporter.

40-11 (b) [~~(d)~~] The commissioners court shall, in administering  
 40-12 the court reporter service fund, assist any court in which a case is  
 40-13 filed that requires the payment of the court reporter service fee.

40-14 SECTION 10.004. Sections 52.047(c), (e), and (g),  
 40-15 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

40-16 (c) On payment of the fee or as provided by the [Rule  
 40-17 ~~40(a)(3) or 53(j)~~], Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure, the person  
 40-18 requesting the transcript is entitled to the original and one copy  
 40-19 of the transcript. The person may purchase additional copies for a  
 40-20 fee per page that does not exceed one-third of the original cost per  
 40-21 page.

40-22 (e) If an objection is made to the amount of these  
 40-23 additional fees, the judge shall set a reasonable fee. If the  
 40-24 person applying for the transcript is entitled to a transcript  
 40-25 without charge under the [~~Rule 40(a)(3) or 53(j)~~], Texas Rules of  
 40-26 Appellate Procedure, the court reporter may not charge any  
 40-27 additional fees under Subsection (d).

40-28 (g) Notwithstanding the [~~Rule 53(j)~~], Texas Rules of  
 40-29 Appellate Procedure, an official court reporter who is required to  
 40-30 prepare a transcript in a criminal case without charging a fee is  
 40-31 not entitled to payment for the transcript from the state or county  
 40-32 if the county paid a substitute court reporter to perform the  
 40-33 official court reporter's regular duties while the transcript was  
 40-34 being prepared. To the extent that this subsection conflicts with  
 40-35 the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure, this subsection controls.  
 40-36 Notwithstanding Sections 22.004 and 22.108(b), the supreme court or  
 40-37 the court of criminal appeals may not amend or adopt rules in  
 40-38 conflict with this subsection.

40-39 SECTION 10.005. The heading to Section 57.002, Government  
 40-40 Code, is amended to read as follows:

40-41 Sec. 57.002. APPOINTMENT OF INTERPRETER OR CART PROVIDER;  
 40-42 CART PROVIDER LIST; PAYMENT OF INTERPRETER COSTS.

40-43 SECTION 10.006. Section 57.002, Government Code, is amended  
 40-44 by adding Subsections (g), (h), and (i) to read as follows:

40-45 (g) A party to a proceeding in a court who files a statement  
 40-46 of inability to afford payment of court costs under Rule 145, Texas  
 40-47 Rules of Civil Procedure, is not required to provide an interpreter  
 40-48 at the party's expense or pay the costs associated with the services  
 40-49 of an interpreter appointed under this section that are incurred  
 40-50 during the course of the action, unless the statement has been  
 40-51 contested and the court has ordered the party to pay costs pursuant  
 40-52 to Rule 145. Nothing in this subsection is intended to apply to  
 40-53 interpreter services or other auxiliary aids for individuals who  
 40-54 are deaf, hard of hearing, or have communication disabilities,  
 40-55 which shall be provided to those individuals free of charge  
 40-56 pursuant to federal and state laws.

40-57 (h) Each county auditor, or other individual designated by  
 40-58 the commissioners court of a county, in consultation with the  
 40-59 district and county clerks shall submit to the Office of Court  
 40-60 Administration of the Texas Judicial System, in the manner  
 40-61 prescribed by the office, information on the money the county spent  
 40-62 during the preceding fiscal year to provide court-ordered  
 40-63 interpretation services in civil and criminal proceedings. The  
 40-64 information must include:

- 40-65 (1) the number of interpreters appointed;  
 40-66 (2) the number of interpreters appointed for parties  
 40-67 or witnesses who are indigent;  
 40-68 (3) the amount of money the county spent to provide  
 40-69 court-ordered interpretation services; and  
 40-70 (4) for civil proceedings, whether a party to the  
 40-71 proceeding filed a statement of inability to afford payment of

41-1 court costs under Rule 145, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure,  
41-2 applicable to the appointment of an interpreter.

41-3 (i) Not later than December 1 of each year, the Office of  
41-4 Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System shall:

41-5 (1) submit to the legislature a report that aggregates  
41-6 by county the information submitted under Subsection (h) for the  
41-7 preceding fiscal year; and

41-8 (2) publish the report on the office's Internet  
41-9 website.

41-10 SECTION 10.007. Section 154.101(f), Government Code, is  
41-11 amended to read as follows:

41-12 (f) Except as provided by Section 154.112 and by Section  
41-13 20.001, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, all depositions conducted  
41-14 in this state must be reported [~~recorded~~] by a certified shorthand  
41-15 reporter.

41-16 SECTION 10.008. Section 406.016(a), Government Code, is  
41-17 amended to read as follows:

41-18 (a) A notary public has the same authority as the county  
41-19 clerk to:

41-20 (1) take acknowledgments or proofs of written  
41-21 instruments;

41-22 (2) protest instruments permitted by law to be  
41-23 protested;

41-24 (3) administer oaths;

41-25 (4) take depositions as provided by Section 20.001,  
41-26 Civil Practice and Remedies Code; and

41-27 (5) certify copies of documents not recordable in the  
41-28 public records.

41-29 SECTION 10.009. (a) This article is and shall be construed  
41-30 to be consistent with the procedures set forth in Rules 199.1(c) and  
41-31 203.6(a), Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, as of September 1, 2023.

41-32 (b) Section 57.002, Government Code, as amended by this  
41-33 article, applies to an action pending on September 1, 2023, or filed  
41-34 on or after that date.

#### 41-35 ARTICLE 11. TRANSFER OF CASES AND PROCEEDINGS

41-36 SECTION 11.001. Section 33.101, Estates Code, is amended to  
41-37 read as follows:

41-38 Sec. 33.101. TRANSFER TO OTHER COUNTY IN WHICH VENUE IS  
41-39 PROPER. If probate proceedings involving the same estate are  
41-40 commenced in more than one county and the court making a  
41-41 determination of venue as provided by Section 33.053 determines  
41-42 that venue is proper in another county, the court clerk shall  
41-43 transmit the file for the proceeding in accordance with the  
41-44 procedures provided by Section 33.105 [~~make and retain a copy of the~~  
41-45 ~~entire file in the case and transmit the original file in electronic~~  
41-46 ~~or paper form~~] to the court in the county in which venue is proper.  
41-47 The court to which the file is transmitted shall conduct the  
41-48 proceeding in the same manner as if the proceeding had originally  
41-49 been commenced in that county.

41-50 SECTION 11.002. Section 33.102(a), Estates Code, is amended  
41-51 to read as follows:

41-52 (a) If it appears to the court at any time before the final  
41-53 order in a probate proceeding is rendered that the court does not  
41-54 have priority of venue over the proceeding, the court shall, on the  
41-55 application of an interested person, transfer the proceeding to the  
41-56 proper county by transmitting the file for the proceeding in  
41-57 accordance with the procedures provided by Section 33.105 to the  
41-58 proper court in that county [~~in electronic or paper form:~~

41-59 [~~(1) the original file in the case; and~~

41-60 [~~(2) certified copies of all entries that have been~~  
41-61 ~~made in the judge's probate docket in the proceeding].~~

41-62 SECTION 11.003. Section 33.103(b), Estates Code, is amended  
41-63 to read as follows:

41-64 (b) The clerk of the court from which the probate proceeding  
41-65 described by Subsection (a) is transferred shall transmit the file  
41-66 for the proceeding in accordance with the procedures provided by  
41-67 Section 33.105 to the court to which the proceeding is  
41-68 transferred[+]

41-69 [~~(1) the original file in the proceeding; and~~

41-70 [~~(2) a certified copy of the index].~~

41-71 SECTION 11.004. Subchapter C, Chapter 33, Estates Code, is

42-1 amended by adding Section 33.105 to read as follows:  
 42-2 Sec. 33.105. TRANSFER OF PROBATE PROCEEDING RECORD. (a) If  
 42-3 a probate proceeding is transferred to a court in another county  
 42-4 under this chapter, the clerk of the transferring court shall send  
 42-5 to the clerk of the court to which the proceeding is transferred,  
 42-6 using the electronic filing system established under Section  
 42-7 72.031, Government Code:

42-8 (1) a transfer certificate and index of transferred  
 42-9 documents;

42-10 (2) a copy of each final order;

42-11 (3) a copy of the order of transfer signed by the  
 42-12 transferring court;

42-13 (4) a copy of the original papers filed in the  
 42-14 transferring court, including a copy of any will;

42-15 (5) a copy of the transfer certificate and index of  
 42-16 transferred documents from each previous transfer; and

42-17 (6) a bill of any costs accrued in the transferring  
 42-18 court.

42-19 (b) The clerk of the transferring court shall use the  
 42-20 standardized transfer certificate and index of transferred  
 42-21 documents form developed by the Office of Court Administration of  
 42-22 the Texas Judicial System under Section 72.037, Government Code,  
 42-23 when transferring a proceeding under this section.

42-24 (c) The clerk of the transferring court shall keep a copy of  
 42-25 the documents transferred under Subsection (a).

42-26 (d) The clerk of the court to which the proceeding is  
 42-27 transferred shall:

42-28 (1) accept documents transferred under Subsection  
 42-29 (a);

42-30 (2) docket the proceeding; and

42-31 (3) notify, using the electronic filing system  
 42-32 established under Section 72.031, Government Code, all parties to  
 42-33 the proceeding, the clerk of the transferring court, and, if  
 42-34 appropriate, the transferring court's local registry that the  
 42-35 proceeding has been docketed.

42-36 (e) The clerk of the transferee court shall physically or  
 42-37 electronically mark or stamp the transfer certificate and index of  
 42-38 transferred documents to evidence the date and time of acceptance  
 42-39 under Subsection (d) but may not physically or electronically mark  
 42-40 or stamp any other document transferred under Subsection (a).

42-41 (f) The clerks of both the transferee and transferring  
 42-42 courts may each produce under Chapter 51, Government Code,  
 42-43 certified or uncertified copies of documents transferred under  
 42-44 Subsection (a) but must include a copy of the transfer certificate  
 42-45 and index of transferred documents with each document produced.

42-46 (g) Sections 80.001 and 80.002, Government Code, do not  
 42-47 apply to the transfer of documents under this section.

42-48 SECTION 11.005. Section 1023.006, Estates Code, is amended  
 42-49 to read as follows:

42-50 Sec. 1023.006. TRANSFER OF RECORD. (a) Not later than the  
 42-51 10th working day after the date ~~when~~ an order of transfer is  
 42-52 signed ~~made~~ under Section 1023.005, the clerk shall record any  
 42-53 unrecorded papers of the guardianship required to be recorded. On  
 42-54 payment of the clerk's fee, the clerk shall send, using the  
 42-55 electronic filing system established under Section 72.031,  
 42-56 Government Code, ~~transmit in electronic or paper form~~ to the  
 42-57 county clerk of the county to which the guardianship was ordered  
 42-58 transferred:

42-59 (1) a transfer certificate and index of transferred  
 42-60 documents ~~[the case file of the guardianship proceedings]; [and]~~

42-61 (2) a copy of each final order;

42-62 (3) a copy of the order of transfer signed by the  
 42-63 transferring court;

42-64 (4) a copy of the original papers filed in the  
 42-65 transferring court;

42-66 (5) a copy of the transfer certificate and index of  
 42-67 transferred documents from each previous transfer; and

42-68 (6) a bill of any costs accrued in the transferring  
 42-69 court ~~[a certified copy of the index of the guardianship records].~~

42-70 (b) The clerk of the transferring court shall use the  
 42-71 standardized transfer certificate and index of transferred

43-1 documents form developed by the Office of Court Administration of  
 43-2 the Texas Judicial System under Section 72.037, Government Code,  
 43-3 when transferring a proceeding under this section.

43-4 (c) The clerk of the transferring court shall keep a copy of  
 43-5 the documents transferred under Subsection (a).

43-6 (d) The clerk of the court to which the proceeding is  
 43-7 transferred shall:

43-8 (1) accept documents transferred under Subsection  
 43-9 (a);

(2) docket the suit; and

43-10 (3) notify, using the electronic filing system  
 43-11 established under Section 72.031, Government Code, all parties, the  
 43-12 clerk of the transferring court, and, if appropriate, the  
 43-13 transferring court's local registry that the suit has been  
 43-14 transferred. The clerk of the transferring court shall also  
 43-15 docketed.

43-16 (e) The clerk of the transferee court shall physically or  
 43-17 electronically mark or stamp the transfer certificate and index of  
 43-18 transferred documents to evidence the date and time of acceptance  
 43-19 under Subsection (d), but may not physically or electronically mark  
 43-20 or stamp any other document transferred under Subsection (a).

43-21 (f) The clerk of the transferring court shall send a  
 43-22 certified copy of the order directing payments to the transferee  
 43-23 court to:

43-24 (1) any party affected by the order and, if  
 43-25 appropriate, to the local registry of the transferee court using  
 43-26 the electronic filing system established under Section 72.031,  
 43-27 Government Code; and

43-28 (2) an employer affected by the order electronically  
 43-29 or by first class mail.

43-30 (g) The clerks of both the transferee and transferring  
 43-31 courts may each produce under Chapter 51, Government Code,  
 43-32 certified or uncertified copies of documents transferred under  
 43-33 Subsection (a) but must include a copy of the transfer certificate  
 43-34 and index of transferred documents with each document produced.

43-35 (h) Sections 80.001 and 80.002, Government Code, do not  
 43-36 apply to the transfer of documents under this section.

43-37 SECTION 11.006. Section 1023.007, Estates Code, is amended  
 43-38 to read as follows:

43-39 Sec. 1023.007. TRANSFER EFFECTIVE. The order transferring  
 43-40 a guardianship does not take effect until the clerk of the court to  
 43-41 which the proceeding is transferred accepts and docketed the case  
 43-42 record under Section 1023.006 [+

43-43 ~~(1) the case file and a certified copy of the index~~  
 43-44 ~~required by Section 1023.006 are filed in electronic or paper form~~  
 43-45 ~~in the office of the county clerk of the county to which the~~  
 43-46 ~~guardianship was ordered transferred; and~~

43-47 ~~(2) a certificate under the clerk's official seal and~~  
 43-48 ~~reporting the filing of the case file and a certified copy of the~~  
 43-49 ~~index is filed in electronic or paper form in the court ordering the~~  
 43-50 ~~transfer by the county clerk of the county to which the guardianship~~  
 43-51 ~~was ordered transferred].~~

43-52 SECTION 11.007. Sections 155.207(a), (b), and (e), Family  
 43-53 Code, are amended to read as follows:

43-54 (a) Not later than the 10th working day after the date an  
 43-55 order of transfer is signed, the clerk of the court transferring a  
 43-56 proceeding shall send, using the electronic filing system  
 43-57 established under Section 72.031, Government Code, to the proper  
 43-58 court [~~in the county~~] to which transfer is being made:

43-59 (1) a transfer certificate and index of transferred  
 43-60 documents;

(2) a copy of each final order;

43-62 (3) a copy of the order of transfer signed by the  
 43-63 transferring court;

43-64 (4) a copy of the original papers filed in the  
 43-65 transferring court;

43-66 (5) a copy of the transfer certificate and index of  
 43-67 transferred documents from each previous transfer; and

43-68 (6) a bill of any costs that have accrued in the  
 43-69 transferring court.

43-70 (b) The clerk of the transferring court shall keep a copy of  
 43-71 the documents transferred under Subsection (a) [~~transferred~~]

44-1 ~~pleadings].~~

44-2 (e) The clerks of both the transferee and transferring  
44-3 courts may each produce under Chapter 51, Government Code,  
44-4 certified or uncertified copies of documents transferred under  
44-5 Subsection (a) and must [filed in a case transferred under this  
44-6 section, but shall also] include a copy of the transfer certificate  
44-7 and index of transferred documents with each document produced.

44-8 SECTION 11.008. Section 51.3071, Government Code, is  
44-9 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (f) and  
44-10 (g) to read as follows:

44-11 (a) If a case is transferred from a district court to a  
44-12 constitutional or statutory county court or another district court,  
44-13 the clerk of the transferring [district] court shall send to the  
44-14 [county] clerk of the court to which the case is transferred, using  
44-15 the electronic filing system established under Section 72.031:

44-16 (1) a transfer certificate and index of transferred  
44-17 documents;

44-18 (2) a copy of the original papers filed in the  
44-19 transferring court;

44-20 (3) a copy of the order of transfer signed by the  
44-21 transferring court;

44-22 (4) a copy of each final order;

44-23 (5) a copy of the transfer certificate and index of  
44-24 transferred documents from each previous transfer; and

44-25 (6) a bill of any costs that have accrued in the  
44-26 transferring court.

44-27 (f) The clerks of both the transferee and transferring  
44-28 courts may each produce, under this chapter, certified or  
44-29 uncertified copies of documents transferred under Subsection (a)  
44-30 and must include a copy of the transfer certificate and index of  
44-31 transferred documents with each document produced.

44-32 (g) This section applies regardless of whether the  
44-33 transferee court and the transferring court are in the same or  
44-34 different counties.

44-35 SECTION 11.009. Section 51.403, Government Code, is amended  
44-36 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (d) and (e) to  
44-37 read as follows:

44-38 (a) If a case is transferred from a county court to a  
44-39 district court or a statutory county court or a county court of  
44-40 another county, the clerk of the transferring [county] court shall  
44-41 send to the [district] clerk of the court to which the case is  
44-42 transferred, using the electronic filing system established under  
44-43 Section 72.031:

44-44 (1) a transfer certificate and index of transferred  
44-45 documents;

44-46 (2) a copy of the original papers filed in the  
44-47 transferring court;

44-48 (3) a copy of the order of transfer signed by the  
44-49 transferring court;

44-50 (4) a copy of each final order;

44-51 (5) a copy of the transfer certificate and index of  
44-52 transferred documents from each previous transfer; and

44-53 (6) a bill of any costs that have accrued in the  
44-54 transferring court.

44-55 (d) The clerks of both the transferee and transferring  
44-56 courts may each produce, under this chapter, certified or  
44-57 uncertified copies of documents transferred under Subsection (a)  
44-58 and must include a copy of the transfer certificate and index of  
44-59 transferred documents with each document produced.

44-60 (e) This section applies regardless of whether the  
44-61 transferee court and the transferring court are in the same or  
44-62 different counties.

44-63 SECTION 11.010. Section 72.037(a), Government Code, is  
44-64 amended to read as follows:

44-65 (a) The office shall develop and make available a  
44-66 standardized transfer certificate and an index of transferred  
44-67 documents form to be used for the transfer of cases and proceedings  
44-68 under Sections 33.105 and 1023.006, Estates Code, Section 155.207,  
44-69 Family Code, and Sections 51.3071 and 51.403 of this code.

44-70 SECTION 11.011. Section 33.103(c), Estates Code, is  
44-71 repealed.

45-1 SECTION 11.012. As soon as practicable after the effective  
45-2 date of this Act, the Office of Court Administration of the Texas  
45-3 Judicial System shall adopt rules and develop and make available  
45-4 all forms and materials required by Section 72.037, Government  
45-5 Code, as amended by this Act.

45-6 ARTICLE 12. CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

45-7 SECTION 12.001. (a) Section 3(b), Article 11.07, Code of  
45-8 Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

45-9 (b) An application for writ of habeas corpus filed after  
45-10 final conviction in a felony case, other than a case in which the  
45-11 death penalty is imposed, must be filed with the clerk of the court  
45-12 in which the conviction being challenged was obtained, and the  
45-13 clerk shall assign the application to that court. When the  
45-14 application is received by that court, a writ of habeas corpus,  
45-15 returnable to the Court of Criminal Appeals, shall issue by  
45-16 operation of law. The clerk of that court shall make appropriate  
45-17 notation thereof, assign to the case a file number (ancillary to  
45-18 that of the conviction being challenged), and forward a copy of the  
45-19 application by certified mail, return receipt requested, by  
45-20 ~~secure~~ electronic mail, or by personal service to the attorney  
45-21 representing the state in that court, who shall answer the  
45-22 application not later than the 30th day after the date the copy of  
45-23 the application is received. Matters alleged in the application  
45-24 not admitted by the state are deemed denied.

45-25 (b) Section 3(b), Article 11.07, Code of Criminal  
45-26 Procedure, as amended by this section, applies only to an  
45-27 application for a writ of habeas corpus filed on or after September  
45-28 1, 2023. An application filed before that date is governed by the  
45-29 law in effect on the date the application was filed, and the former  
45-30 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

45-31 SECTION 12.002. Article 18.01(d), Code of Criminal  
45-32 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

45-33 (d) Only the specifically described property or items set  
45-34 forth in a search warrant issued under Article 18.02(a)(10) or  
45-35 property, items or contraband enumerated in Article 18.02(a)(1),  
45-36 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), or (12) may be seized. A  
45-37 subsequent search warrant may be issued pursuant to Article  
45-38 18.02(a)(10) to search the same person, place, or thing subjected  
45-39 to a prior search under Article 18.02(a)(10) only if the subsequent  
45-40 search warrant is issued by a judge of a statutory county court, a  
45-41 district court, a court of appeals, the court of criminal appeals,  
45-42 or the supreme court.

45-43 SECTION 12.003. Article 18.0215(b), Code of Criminal  
45-44 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

45-45 (b) A warrant under this article may be issued only by a  
45-46 judge, including a judge of a statutory county court, in the same  
45-47 judicial district as the site of:

45-48 (1) the law enforcement agency that employs the peace  
45-49 officer, if the cellular telephone or other wireless communications  
45-50 device is in the officer's possession; or

45-51 (2) the likely location of the telephone or device.

45-52 SECTION 12.004. Sections 4-c(a), (c), (d), and (e), Article  
45-53 38.01, Code of Criminal Procedure, are amended to read as follows:

45-54 (a) On a determination by the commission that a license  
45-55 holder or crime laboratory has committed professional negligence or  
45-56 professional misconduct under this article, violated the code of  
45-57 professional responsibility under this article, or otherwise  
45-58 violated this article or a rule or order of the commission under  
45-59 this article, the commission may, as applicable:

45-60 (1) revoke or suspend the person's license or crime  
45-61 laboratory's accreditation;

45-62 (2) refuse to renew the person's license or crime  
45-63 laboratory's accreditation; or

45-64 (3) reprimand the license holder or crime laboratory.

45-65 (c) The commission shall give written notice by certified  
45-66 mail of a determination described by Subsection (a) to the  
45-67 applicable [a] license holder or crime laboratory [who is the  
45-68 subject of the determination]. The notice must:

45-69 (1) include a brief summary of the alleged negligence,  
45-70 misconduct, or violation;

45-71 (2) state the disciplinary action taken by the

46-1 commission; and  
 46-2 (3) inform the license holder or crime laboratory of  
 46-3 the license holder's or crime laboratory's right to a hearing before  
 46-4 the Judicial Branch Certification Commission on the occurrence of  
 46-5 the negligence, misconduct, or violation, the imposition of a  
 46-6 disciplinary action, or both.

46-7 (d) Not later than the 20th day after the date the license  
 46-8 holder or crime laboratory receives the notice under Subsection  
 46-9 (c), the license holder or crime laboratory may accept the  
 46-10 disciplinary action or request a hearing by submitting a written  
 46-11 request to the Judicial Branch Certification Commission to contest  
 46-12 the findings of fact or conclusions of law, the occurrence of the  
 46-13 negligence, misconduct, or violation, or the imposition of a  
 46-14 disciplinary action, as applicable. If the license holder or crime  
 46-15 laboratory fails to timely submit a request, the commission's  
 46-16 disciplinary action becomes final and is not subject to review by  
 46-17 the Judicial Branch Certification Commission.

46-18 (e) If the license holder or crime laboratory requests a  
 46-19 hearing, the Judicial Branch Certification Commission shall  
 46-20 conduct a hearing to determine whether there is substantial  
 46-21 evidence to support the determination under Subsection (a) that the  
 46-22 negligence, misconduct, or violation occurred [~~license holder~~  
 46-23 ~~committed professional misconduct or violated this article or a~~  
 46-24 ~~commission rule or order under this article~~]. If the Judicial  
 46-25 Branch Certification Commission upholds the determination, the  
 46-26 Judicial Branch Certification Commission shall determine the type  
 46-27 of disciplinary action to be taken. The Judicial Branch  
 46-28 Certification Commission shall conduct the hearing, and any appeal  
 46-29 of that commission's decision, in accordance with the procedures  
 46-30 provided by Subchapter B, Chapter 153, Government Code, as  
 46-31 applicable, and the rules of the Judicial Branch Certification  
 46-32 Commission.

46-33 SECTION 12.005. Article 42.15, Code of Criminal Procedure,  
 46-34 is amended by adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:

46-35 (a-2) A defendant may waive the requirement for the inquiry  
 46-36 described by Subsection (a-1) to be on the record.

46-37 SECTION 12.006. (a) Section 2a(a), Article 55.02, Code of  
 46-38 Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

46-39 (a) A person who is entitled to expunction of information  
 46-40 contained in records and files under Article 55.01(d) may file an  
 46-41 application for expunction with the attorney representing the state  
 46-42 in the prosecution of felonies in the county in which:

- 46-43 (1) the person resides; or
- 46-44 (2) the offense was alleged to have occurred.

46-45 (b) Section 2a(a), Article 55.02, Code of Criminal  
 46-46 Procedure, as amended by this section, applies to an expunction of  
 46-47 information contained in arrest records and files relating to any  
 46-48 criminal offense occurring before, on, or after September 1, 2023.

46-49 ARTICLE 13. PROBATE PROCEEDINGS

46-50 SECTION 13.001. Section 152.001, Estates Code, is amended  
 46-51 to read as follows:

46-52 Sec. 152.001. APPLICATION AUTHORIZED. (a) Subject to  
 46-53 Subsection (b), a person qualified to serve as an administrator  
 46-54 under Section 304.001 may file an application requesting emergency  
 46-55 intervention by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to provide  
 46-56 for:

- 46-57 (1) the payment or reimbursement of the decedent's  
 46-58 funeral and burial expenses; or
- 46-59 (2) the protection and storage of personal property  
 46-60 owned by the decedent that, on the date of the decedent's death, was  
 46-61 located in accommodations rented by the decedent.

46-62 (b) An applicant may file an application under this section  
 46-63 only if:

- 46-64 (1) an application or affidavit has not been filed and  
 46-65 is not pending under Section 256.052, 256.054, or 301.052 or  
 46-66 Chapter 205 or 401; and

46-67 (2) the applicant needs to:  
 46-68 (A) obtain funds for the payment or reimbursement  
 46-69 of the decedent's funeral and burial expenses; or

46-70 (B) gain access to accommodations rented by the  
 46-71 decedent that contain the decedent's personal property and the

47-1 applicant has been denied access to those accommodations.

47-2 SECTION 13.002. Sections 152.002(a) and (b), Estates Code,  
47-3 are amended to read as follows:

47-4 (a) An emergency intervention application must be sworn and  
47-5 must contain:

47-6 (1) the applicant's name, address, and interest;

47-7 (2) facts showing an immediate necessity for the  
47-8 issuance of an emergency intervention order under Subchapter B;

47-9 (3) the decedent's date of death, place of death, and  
47-10 residential address on the date of death;

47-11 (4) the name and address of the funeral home holding  
47-12 the decedent's remains or paid by the applicant for the decedent's  
47-13 funeral and burial; and

47-14 (5) the names of any known or ascertainable heirs and  
47-15 devisees of the decedent.

47-16 (b) In addition to the information required under  
47-17 Subsection (a), if emergency intervention is requested to obtain  
47-18 funds needed for the payment or reimbursement of the decedent's  
47-19 funeral and burial expenses, the application must also contain:

47-20 (1) the reason any known or ascertainable heirs and  
47-21 devisees of the decedent:

47-22 (A) cannot be contacted; or

47-23 (B) have refused to assist in the decedent's  
47-24 burial;

47-25 (2) a description of necessary funeral and burial  
47-26 procedures and a statement from the funeral home that contains a  
47-27 detailed and itemized description of the cost of those procedures;  
47-28 [~~and~~]

47-29 (3) the name and address of an individual, entity, or  
47-30 financial institution, including an employer, in possession of any  
47-31 funds of or due to the decedent, and related account numbers and  
47-32 balances, if known by the applicant; and

47-33 (4) if applicable, the amount paid by the applicant  
47-34 for the funeral and burial procedures described by Subdivision (2).

47-35 SECTION 13.003. Section 152.003, Estates Code, is amended  
47-36 to read as follows:

47-37 Sec. 152.003. ADDITIONAL CONTENTS OF APPLICATION:

47-38 INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING DECEDENT'S FUNERAL AND REMAINS. (a) In  
47-39 addition to the information required under Section 152.002, if  
47-40 emergency intervention is requested to obtain funds needed for the  
47-41 payment or reimbursement of a decedent's funeral and burial  
47-42 expenses, the application must also state whether there are or were  
47-43 any written instructions from the decedent relating to the type and  
47-44 manner of funeral or burial preferred by the decedent. The  
47-45 applicant shall:

47-46 (1) attach the instructions, if available, to the  
47-47 application; and

47-48 (2) fully comply, or must have fully complied, as  
47-49 appropriate, with the instructions.

47-50 (b) If written instructions do not exist, the applicant may  
47-51 not permit or have permitted the decedent's remains to be cremated  
47-52 unless the applicant obtains or obtained the court's permission to  
47-53 cremate the remains.

47-54 SECTION 13.004. Section 152.004, Estates Code, is amended  
47-55 to read as follows:

47-56 Sec. 152.004. TIME AND PLACE OF FILING. An emergency  
47-57 intervention application must be filed:

47-58 (1) with the court clerk in the county in which:

47-59 (A) the decedent was domiciled; or

47-60 (B) the accommodations rented by the decedent  
47-61 that contain the decedent's personal property are located; and

47-62 (2) not earlier than the third day after the date of  
47-63 the decedent's death and not later than nine months [~~the 90th day~~]  
47-64 after the date of the decedent's death.

47-65 SECTION 13.005. Section 152.051, Estates Code, is amended  
47-66 to read as follows:

47-67 Sec. 152.051. ISSUANCE OF ORDER REGARDING FUNERAL AND  
47-68 BURIAL EXPENSES. If on review of an application filed under Section  
47-69 152.001 the court determines that emergency intervention is  
47-70 necessary to obtain funds needed for the payment or reimbursement  
47-71 of a decedent's funeral and burial expenses, the court may order

48-1 funds of the decedent that are being held by an individual, an  
48-2 employer, or a financial institution to be paid directly to a  
48-3 funeral home or the applicant, as applicable, only for:

48-4 (1) reasonable and necessary attorney's fees for the  
48-5 attorney who obtained the order;

48-6 (2) court costs for obtaining the order; and

48-7 (3) funeral and burial expenses not to exceed \$5,000  
48-8 as ordered by the court to provide the decedent with or to provide  
48-9 reimbursement for a reasonable, dignified, and appropriate funeral  
48-10 and burial.

48-11 SECTION 13.006. Sections 152.001, 152.002(a) and (b),  
48-12 152.003, 152.004, and 152.051, Estates Code, as amended by this  
48-13 article, apply only to an application requesting emergency  
48-14 intervention that is filed on or after September 1, 2023. An  
48-15 application that is filed before September 1, 2023, is governed by  
48-16 the law in effect at the time the application was filed, and the  
48-17 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

48-18 ARTICLE 14. JUVENILE BOARDS

48-19 SECTION 14.001. Section 152.0671(a), Human Resources Code,  
48-20 is amended to read as follows:

48-21 (a) The Denton County Juvenile Board is composed of the  
48-22 county judge, the district judges in Denton County, and the judge of  
48-23 any county court at law [~~statutory court~~] in the county.

48-24 SECTION 14.002. Section 152.2264, Human Resources Code, is  
48-25 amended to read as follows:

48-26 Sec. 152.2264. TARRANT COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT  
48-27 ADMINISTRATOR. (a) Subject to the approval of the commissioners  
48-28 court, the judges of the district courts that give preference to  
48-29 criminal cases, the judges of the criminal district courts, and the  
48-30 judges of the county criminal courts of Tarrant County [~~and county~~  
48-31 ~~courts in Tarrant County that give preference to criminal matters~~]  
48-32 may use the services of a criminal courts administrator.

48-33 (b) A judge may not be subjected to a suit for, and is immune  
48-34 from liability for damages arising from, an act or omission  
48-35 committed while performing a duty under this section unless the act  
48-36 or omission is:

48-37 (1) committed intentionally, wilfully, or wantonly;

48-38 or

48-39 (2) committed with:

48-40 (A) gross negligence; [~~or~~]

48-41 (B) conscious indifference [~~or reckless~~  
48-42 ~~disregard~~] for the safety of others; or

48-43 (C) reckless disregard for the safety of others.

48-44 ARTICLE 15. TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

48-45 SECTION 15.001. Effective June 1, 2023, Section 79.012(b),  
48-46 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

48-47 (b) The executive director:

48-48 (1) [~~must be a licensed attorney,~~

48-49 [~~2~~] must demonstrate an interest in the standards  
48-50 for and provision of criminal defense services to indigent  
48-51 individuals;

48-52 (2) [~~3~~] may not engage in the private practice of  
48-53 law; and

48-54 (3) [~~4~~] may not accept money, property, or any other  
48-55 thing of value not authorized by law for services rendered under  
48-56 this chapter.

48-57 ARTICLE 16. ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS

48-58 SECTION 16.001. Section 602.002, Government Code, is  
48-59 amended to read as follows:

48-60 Sec. 602.002. OATH MADE IN TEXAS. An oath made in this  
48-61 state may be administered and a certificate of the fact given by:

48-62 (1) a judge, retired judge, or clerk of a municipal  
48-63 court;

48-64 (2) a judge, retired judge, senior judge, clerk, or  
48-65 commissioner of a court of record;

48-66 (3) a justice of the peace, a retired justice of the  
48-67 peace, or a clerk of a justice court;

48-68 (4) an associate judge, magistrate, master, referee,  
48-69 or criminal law hearing officer;

48-70 (5) a notary public;

48-71 (6) a member of a board or commission created by a law

- 49-1 of this state, in a matter pertaining to a duty of the board or  
 49-2 commission;
- 49-3 (7) a person employed by the Texas Ethics Commission  
 49-4 who has a duty related to a report required by Title 15, Election  
 49-5 Code, in a matter pertaining to that duty;
- 49-6 (8) a county tax assessor-collector or an employee of  
 49-7 the county tax assessor-collector if the oath relates to a document  
 49-8 that is required or authorized to be filed in the office of the  
 49-9 county tax assessor-collector;
- 49-10 (9) the secretary of state or a former secretary of  
 49-11 state;
- 49-12 (10) an employee of a personal bond office, or an  
 49-13 employee of a county, who is employed to obtain information  
 49-14 required to be obtained under oath if the oath is required or  
 49-15 authorized by Article 17.04 or by Article 26.04(n) or (o), Code of  
 49-16 Criminal Procedure;
- 49-17 (11) the lieutenant governor or a former lieutenant  
 49-18 governor;
- 49-19 (12) the speaker of the house of representatives or a  
 49-20 former speaker of the house of representatives;
- 49-21 (13) the governor or a former governor;
- 49-22 (14) a legislator or retired legislator;
- 49-23 (14-a) the secretary of the senate or the chief clerk  
 49-24 of the house of representatives;
- 49-25 (15) the attorney general or a former attorney  
 49-26 general;
- 49-27 (16) the secretary or clerk of a municipality in a  
 49-28 matter pertaining to the official business of the municipality;
- 49-29 (17) a peace officer described by Article 2.12, Code  
 49-30 of Criminal Procedure, if:
- 49-31 (A) the oath is administered when the officer is  
 49-32 engaged in the performance of the officer's duties; and
- 49-33 (B) the administration of the oath relates to the  
 49-34 officer's duties; or
- 49-35 (18) a county treasurer.

ARTICLE 17. APPELLATE RECORD

49-37 SECTION 17.001. (a) Subchapter B, Chapter 51, Civil  
 49-38 Practice and Remedies Code, is amended by adding Section 51.018 to  
 49-39 read as follows:

49-40 Sec. 51.018. APPENDIX IN LIEU OF CLERK'S RECORD. (a) Not  
 49-41 later than the 10th day after the date that a party files a notice of  
 49-42 appeal for a civil suit, the party may notify the trial court and  
 49-43 the court of appeals that the party will file an appendix that  
 49-44 replaces the clerk's record for the appeal.

49-45 (b) The party must file the appendix with the party's  
 49-46 appellate brief. Except in an expedited proceeding or by order of  
 49-47 the court, the brief and appendix must be filed not later than the  
 49-48 30th day after the later of:

49-49 (1) the date that the party provided notice under  
 49-50 Subsection (a); or

49-51 (2) the date that a reporter's record, if any, is filed  
 49-52 with the court of appeals.

49-53 (c) An appendix filed under this section must contain a  
 49-54 file-stamped copy of each document required by Rule 34.5, Texas  
 49-55 Rules of Appellate Procedure, for a civil suit and any other item  
 49-56 the party intends to reference in the party's brief. The appendix  
 49-57 may not contain a document that has not been filed with the trial  
 49-58 court except by agreement of the parties to the appeal.

49-59 (d) An appendix filed in accordance with this section  
 49-60 becomes part of the appellate record. A court clerk may not prepare  
 49-61 or file a clerk's record or assess a fee for preparing a clerk's  
 49-62 record if a party files an appendix in accordance with this section.

49-63 (b) Section 51.018, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, as  
 49-64 added by this section, applies only to a party that files a notice  
 49-65 of appeal on or after January 1, 2024. A party that files a notice  
 49-66 of appeal before January 1, 2024, is governed by the law in effect  
 49-67 on the date the notice was given, and the former law is continued in  
 49-68 effect for that purpose.

ARTICLE 18. DELIVERY OF DOCUMENTS

49-70 SECTION 18.001. The heading to Chapter 80, Government Code,  
 49-71 is amended to read as follows:

50-1 CHAPTER 80. DELIVERY OF NOTICE, ORDERS, AND DOCUMENTS  
50-2 SECTION 18.002. Section 80.001, Government Code, is amended  
50-3 to read as follows:

50-4 Sec. 80.001. DELIVERY OF NOTICE OR DOCUMENT. A court,  
50-5 justice, judge, magistrate, or clerk may send any notice or  
50-6 document by a method authorized by Section 80.002(a) [80.002].

50-7 SECTION 18.003. Section 80.002, Government Code, is amended  
50-8 to read as follows:

50-9 Sec. 80.002. [AUTHORIZED] DELIVERY OF NOTICE, ORDER, OR  
50-10 DOCUMENT. (a) A court, justice, judge, magistrate, or clerk may  
50-11 send any notice or document using mail or electronic mail. This  
50-12 subsection [section] applies to all civil and criminal statutes  
50-13 requiring delivery of a notice or document.

50-14 (b) In addition to any other delivery method required or  
50-15 authorized by law or supreme court rule, a statutory county court,  
50-16 district court, or appellate court shall deliver through the  
50-17 electronic filing system established under Section 72.031 to all  
50-18 parties in each case in which the use of the electronic filing  
50-19 system is required or authorized all court orders the court enters  
50-20 for the case.

ARTICLE 19. SERVICE OF PROCESS

50-22 SECTION 19.001. Chapter 30, Civil Practice and Remedies  
50-23 Code, is amended by adding Section 30.0035 to read as follows:

50-24 Sec. 30.0035. PERSONAL SERVICE OF PROCESS DURING  
50-25 LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDING PROHIBITED. A person may not serve citation  
50-26 or other civil process in person on a member, officer, or employee  
50-27 of the senate or house of representatives during any legislative  
50-28 proceeding. A court shall quash any service made in violation of  
50-29 this section. The supreme court shall revoke the certification of a  
50-30 process server who violates this section. This section is not  
50-31 subject to Section 22.004(c), Government Code.

ARTICLE 20. EFFECTIVE DATE

50-33 SECTION 20.001. (a) Except as otherwise provided by this  
50-34 Act and Subsection (b) of this section, this Act takes effect  
50-35 September 1, 2023.

50-36 (b) Article 15 of this Act takes effect immediately if this  
50-37 Act receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each  
50-38 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.  
50-39 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate  
50-40 effect, Article 15 of this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

50-41 \* \* \* \* \*