

Amend HB 3384 as follows:

(1) Strike SECTION 6 of the bill, amending Section 54.506, Government Code, and substitute the following:

SECTION 6. Section 54.506, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 54.506. MATTERS THAT MAY BE REFERRED. A judge may refer any civil case or portion of a civil case to an associate judge for resolution [~~any matter to the master for a finding~~].

(2) Strike SECTION 9 of the bill, amending Section 54.508, Government Code, and substitute the following:

SECTION 9. Section 54.508, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 54.508. POWERS. Except as limited by an order of referral, the associate judge [~~master~~] may:

- (1) conduct hearings;
- (2) hear evidence;
- (3) compel production of relevant evidence, including books, papers, vouchers, documents, and other writings;
- (4) rule on admissibility of evidence;
- (5) issue summons for the appearance of witnesses;
- (6) examine witnesses;
- (7) swear witnesses for hearings;
- (8) regulate proceedings in a hearing; and
- (9) do any act and take any measure necessary and proper for the efficient performance of the duties required by the order of referral.

(3) Strike SECTION 10 of the bill, amending Section 54.509, Government Code, and substitute the following:

SECTION 10. Section 54.509, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 54.509. RECORD OF EVIDENCE. (a) A court reporter may be provided during a hearing held by an associate judge appointed under this subchapter. A court reporter is required to be provided when the associate judge presides over a jury trial.

(b) A party, the associate judge, or the referring court may provide for a reporter during the hearing if one is not otherwise provided.

(c) The record may be preserved in the absence of a court reporter by any other means approved by the associate judge.

(d) The referring court or associate judge may assess the expense of preserving the record under Subsection (c) as costs.

(e) On appeal of the associate judge's report or proposed order, the referring court may consider testimony or other evidence in the record if the record is taken by a court reporter. ~~[At the request of a party, the master shall make a record of the evidence offered and excluded. The record must be in the same form as a record of evidence for a trial court.]~~