

By: Talton

H.B. No. 1759

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the licensure of a person licensed to practice law in another jurisdiction to practice law in Texas.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 82.036, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 82.036. FOREIGN ATTORNEYS. (a) The supreme court shall make such rules and regulations as to admitting attorneys from other jurisdictions to practice law in this state as it shall deem proper and just. All such attorneys shall be required to furnish satisfactory proof as to good moral character.

(b) The rules adopted under this section must allow an attorney licensed to practice law in another jurisdiction to:

(1) take the bar examination and, on passing the examination, be admitted to practice law in this state, regardless of whether the attorney completed the law study requirements for admission at an approved law school, if the attorney:

(A) is otherwise eligible to take the examination and be admitted to practice law; and

(B) is in good standing with the licensing authority of the other jurisdiction and there is no disciplinary investigation or action pending against the attorney; and

(2) be admitted to practice law in this state without examination, regardless of whether the attorney completed the law

1 study requirements for admission at an approved law school, if the  
2 attorney:

3 (A) is otherwise eligible for admission to  
4 practice law without examination; and

5 (B) is in good standing with the licensing  
6 authority of the other jurisdiction and there is no disciplinary  
7 investigation or action pending against the attorney.

8 (c) An attorney described by Subsection (b)(1) who received  
9 a passing score on a bar examination administered in another  
10 jurisdiction is not required to take the Multistate Performance  
11 Test or the Multistate Bar Examination components of the Texas bar  
12 examination to be admitted to practice law in this state. The  
13 supreme court shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this  
14 subsection.

15 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
16 of this Act, the supreme court shall adopt rules to implement  
17 Section 82.036, Government Code, as amended by this Act.

18 SECTION 3. Section 82.036, Government Code, as amended by  
19 this Act, applies only to a person who files an application to take  
20 the bar examination or an application for admission to the State Bar  
21 of Texas on or after September 1, 2003.

22 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.