

By: Rodriguez, Pena

H.B. No. 2188

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to alternate methods of responding to a jury summons.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 62, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 62.0111 to read as follows:

Sec. 62.0111. COMPUTER OR TELEPHONE RESPONSE TO SUMMONS.

(a) A plan authorized under Section 62.011 for the selection of names of prospective jurors may allow for a prospective juror to appear in response to a summons by:

(1) contacting the county officer responsible for summoning jurors by computer;

(2) calling an automated telephone system; or

(3) appearing before the court in person.

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

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

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

1 (3) submission of a request by the prospective juror
2 for a postponement of or excuse from jury service under Section
3 62.110;

4 (4) information for jury assignment under Section
5 62.016, including:

6 (A) the prospective juror's postponement status;

7 (B) if the prospective juror could potentially
8 serve on a jury in a justice court, the residency of the prospective
9 juror; and

10 (C) if the prospective juror could potentially
11 serve on a jury in a criminal matter, whether the prospective juror
12 has been convicted of misdemeanor theft;

13 (5) completion and submission by the prospective juror
14 of the written jury summons questionnaire under Section 62.0132;

15 (6) the prospective juror's electronic mail address;
16 and

17 (7) notification to the prospective juror by
18 electronic mail of:

19 (A) whether the prospective juror is qualified
20 for jury service;

21 (B) the status of the exemption, postponement, or
22 judicial excuse request of the prospective juror; or

23 (C) whether the prospective juror has been
24 assigned to a jury panel.

25 (c) The county officer responsible for summoning jurors
26 shall purge the electronic mail address of a prospective juror
27 collected under Subsection (b):

1 (1) if the prospective juror serves on a jury, not
2 later than the 30th day after the date that:

3 (A) the county sends the person payment for jury
4 service; or

5 (B) the county would otherwise send the person
6 payment for jury service, if the person has donated the payment
7 under Section 61.003; or

8 (2) if the prospective juror does not serve on a jury,
9 not later than the 30th day after the date that the court releases
10 the person from jury service.

11 (d) To the extent practicable, the ratio of prospective
12 jurors assigned to a particular jury panel who appear in response to
13 a summons by contacting the county officer responsible for
14 summoning jurors by computer or calling an automated telephone
15 system to prospective jurors who appear in person must equal the
16 ratio of all prospective jurors assigned to a jury panel at the same
17 time who appear by computer or automated telephone system to
18 prospective jurors who appear in person.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.