

By: Denny, et al.

H.B. No. 2682

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the designation of permanent places for certain
judicial offices.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 22, Government Code, is
amended by adding Section 22.015 to read as follows:

Sec. 22.015. PERMANENT PLACE DESIGNATIONS. (a) The
supreme court is composed of a chief justice and of eight justices
holding places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

(b) The designation of offices and places under this section
identifies the offices and places for all purposes, including
identification on official ballots for primary and general
elections.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 22, Government Code, is
amended by adding Section 22.112 to read as follows:

Sec. 22.112. PERMANENT PLACE DESIGNATIONS. (a) The court
of criminal appeals is composed of a presiding judge and of eight
judges holding places numbered consecutively beginning with Place
2.

(b) The designation of offices and places under this section
identifies the offices and places for all purposes, including
identification on official ballots for primary and general
elections.

SECTION 3. Section 22.216, Government Code, is amended to

read as follows:

Sec. 22.216. MEMBERSHIP; PERMANENT PLACE DESIGNATIONS. (a) The Court of Appeals for the First Court of Appeals District consists of a chief justice and of eight justices holding places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

(b) The Court of Appeals for the Second Court of Appeals District consists of a chief justice and of six justices holding places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

(c) The Court of Appeals for the Third Court of Appeals District consists of a chief justice and of five justices holding places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

(d) The Court of Appeals for the Fourth Court of Appeals District consists of a chief justice and of six justices holding places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

(e) The Court of Appeals for the Fifth Court of Appeals District consists of a chief justice and of 12 justices holding places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

(f) The Court of Appeals for the Sixth Court of Appeals District consists of a chief justice and of two justices holding places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

(g) The Court of Appeals for the Seventh Court of Appeals District consists of a chief justice and of three justices holding places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

(h) The Court of Appeals for the Eighth Court of Appeals District consists of a chief justice and of three justices holding places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

(i) The Court of Appeals for the Ninth Court of Appeals

1 District consists of a chief justice and of two justices holding
2 places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

3 (j) The Court of Appeals for the Tenth Court of Appeals
4 District consists of a chief justice and of two justices holding
5 places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

6 (k) The Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Court of Appeals
7 District consists of a chief justice and of two justices holding
8 places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

9 (l) The Court of Appeals for the Twelfth Court of Appeals
10 District consists of a chief justice and of two justices holding
11 places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

12 (m) The Court of Appeals for the Thirteenth Court of Appeals
13 District consists of a chief justice and of five justices holding
14 places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

15 (n) The Court of Appeals for the Fourteenth Court of Appeals
16 District consists of a chief justice and of eight justices holding
17 places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

18 (o) The designation of offices and places under this section
19 identifies the offices and places for all purposes, including
20 identification on official ballots for primary and general
21 elections.

22 (p) If any additional offices of justice of a court of
23 appeals are created, the designation for those offices shall be in
24 consecutive numerical order beginning with the next available place
25 number. If two or more offices of justice are created to take
26 effect the same date, and the legislature does not specify places
27 for those offices, the applicable court of appeals shall by rule

1 determine places for each office. If the court does not determine
2 places before a person is appointed or elected to fill the initial
3 vacancy, the places are determined by seniority. The chief justice
4 of the applicable court shall file the names and place numbers of
5 the justices with the secretary of state and the clerk of the court.

6 SECTION 4. Section 52.092(h), Election Code, and Sections
7 22.203(c), (d), (e), and (f), Government Code, are repealed.

8 SECTION 5. (a) The supreme court, by a majority vote of its
9 members, shall adopt rules establishing a seniority system to
10 determine which office and place is held by each justice serving on
11 the court in accordance with Section 22.015, Government Code, as
12 added by this Act. The chief justice shall file the names and place
13 numbers of the justices with the secretary of state and the clerk of
14 the court.

15 (b) The court of criminal appeals, by a majority vote of its
16 members, shall adopt rules establishing a seniority system to
17 determine which office and place is held by each judge serving on
18 the court in accordance with Section 22.112, Government Code, as
19 added by this Act. The presiding judge shall file the names and
20 place numbers of the judges with the secretary of state and the
21 clerk of the court.

22 (c) Each court of appeals, by a majority vote of its
23 members, shall adopt rules establishing a seniority system to
24 determine which office and place is held by each justice serving on
25 the court in accordance with Section 22.216, Government Code, as
26 amended by this Act. The chief justice shall file the names and
27 place numbers of the justices with the secretary of state and the

1 clerk of the court.

2 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.