

By: Denny, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Staples) H.B. No. 2682
(In the Senate - Received from the House April 28, 2003;
May 1, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on
Jurisprudence; May 14, 2003, reported favorably by the following
vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 14, 2003, sent to printer.)

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

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

(k) The Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Court of Appeals
District consists of a chief justice and of two justices holding

places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

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

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

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

(o) 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.

(p) If any additional offices of justice of a court of appeals are created, the designation for those offices shall be in consecutive numerical order beginning with the next available place number. If two or more offices of justice are created to take effect the same date, and the legislature does not specify places for those offices, the applicable court of appeals shall by rule determine places for each office. If the court does not determine places before a person is appointed or elected to fill the initial vacancy, the places are determined by seniority. The chief justice of the applicable court shall file the names and place numbers of the justices with the secretary of state and the clerk of the court.

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 Section 52.092(h), Election Code, and Sections 22.203(c), (d), (e), and (f), Government Code, are repealed.

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

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

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

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

* * * * *