

By: Eiland

H.B. No. 158

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the separation of certain facilities for juries
3 deliberating in criminal trials.

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

5 SECTION 1. Article 36.21, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Art. 36.21. TO PROVIDE JURY ROOM. (a) The sheriff shall
8 provide a suitable room for the deliberation of the jury and supply
9 them with such necessary food and lodging as he can obtain. No
10 intoxicating liquor shall be furnished them.

11 (b) In all cases wherein a jury consists partly of male
12 jurors and partly of female jurors, the sheriff shall provide
13 facilities for the female jurors separate and apart from the
14 facilities provided for the male jurors. Failure to comply with
15 this subsection is not grounds for appeal and does not constitute
16 reversible error for a defendant in a criminal case.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
22 legislative session.