

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 596  
By: Smithee  
Judiciary  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Under current law, municipal judges in the City of Amarillo are required to maintain residence in the city and are prohibited from having a private practice while in office. This limits the ability to hire part-time judges to assist with a crowded docket. This bill will lift those restrictions for judges who work less than 40 hours per week.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the opinion of the committee that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

The bill provides that restrictions on the residency and private practice of a municipal judge do not apply to a judge employed to work less than 40 hours per week in the City of Amarillo Municipal Court, under Section 30.00934 (a) of the Government Code.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

Upon passage, or, if the Act does not receive the necessary vote, the Act takes effect September 1, 2005.