

By: Talton

H.B. No. 1220

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the appointment of mental health masters.

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

SECTION 1. Section 574.0085(a), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The county judge may appoint a full-time or a part-time master to preside over the proceedings for court-ordered mental health services or another proceeding under this title if the commissioners court of a county in which the court has jurisdiction authorizes the employment of a master.

SECTION 2. Article 2.09, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 2.09. WHO ARE MAGISTRATES. Each of the following officers is a magistrate within the meaning of this Code: The justices of the Supreme Court, the judges of the Court of Criminal Appeals, the justices of the Courts of Appeals, the judges of the District Court, the magistrates appointed by the judges of the district courts of Bexar County, Dallas County, or Tarrant County that give preference to criminal cases, the criminal law hearing officers for Harris County appointed under Subchapter L, Chapter 54, Government Code, the magistrates appointed by the judges of the district courts of Lubbock County or Webb County, the magistrates appointed by the judges of the criminal district courts of Dallas County or Tarrant County, the masters appointed by the judges of the

1 district courts and the county courts at law that give preference to
2 criminal cases in Jefferson County, the magistrates appointed by
3 the judges of the district courts and the statutory county courts of
4 Williamson County, the magistrates appointed by the judges of the
5 district courts and statutory county courts that give preference to
6 criminal cases in Travis County, the county judges, the judges of
7 the county courts at law, judges of the county criminal courts, the
8 judges of statutory probate courts, the masters appointed under
9 Section 574.0085, Health and Safety Code, the associate judges
10 appointed by the judges of the statutory probate courts under
11 Subchapter G, Chapter 54, Government Code, the justices of the
12 peace, the mayors and recorders and the judges of the municipal
13 courts of incorporated cities or towns.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.