

AN ACT

relating to the appointment of temporary justices of the peace in certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. Section 27.055, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (c), (d), and (e) and adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(c) In Subsections [~~Subsection~~] (b) and (f), "qualified person" means a person who has served as a justice of the peace for not less than 4 1/2 years and who has not been convicted of a criminal offense that involves moral turpitude.

(d) A person appointed under Subsection (b) or (f) may reside in a county other than the county in which the person is appointed as a temporary justice of the peace.

(e) The county judge may appoint any qualified voter under Section 11.002, Election Code, to serve as a temporary justice of the peace if the judge cannot find a qualified person who agrees to serve under Subsection (b) or (f).

(f) In a county that has a population of more than 800,000 and that has not more than five justices of the peace, the county judge may appoint a qualified person to serve as a temporary justice of the peace to hold court when necessary to dispose of accumulated business in the precinct. The county judge may designate the local administrative statutory county court judge to act on behalf of the

1 county judge in making the appointment under this subsection.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

H.B. No. 3519

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3519 was passed by the House on May 9, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3519 was passed by the Senate on May 25, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor