

By: Gattis

H.B. No. 3884

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the qualifications of statutory county court judges.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25.0014, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 25.0014. QUALIFICATIONS OF JUDGE. (a) The judge of a statutory county court must:

(1) be at least 35 [~~25~~] years of age;

(2) have resided in the county for at least two years before election or appointment; [~~and~~]

(3) be a licensed attorney in this state who, on a full-time basis, has practiced law or served as a judge of a court in this state, or both combined, for the seven [~~four~~] years preceding election or appointment, unless otherwise provided for by law; and

(4) be certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization as having special competence in any area of law.

(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a person serving as a statutory county court judge on September 1, 2007, is not required to comply with Subsection (a)(4).

(c) Notwithstanding Section 25.0001(a), to the extent of a conflict between this section and a law applicable to a specific statutory county court, this section prevails.

SECTION 2. The following provisions of the Government Code

1 are repealed:

- 2 (1) Section 25.0212(c);
- 3 (2) Section 25.0222(e);
- 4 (3) Section 25.0453(a);
- 5 (4) Section 25.0512(a);
- 6 (5) Section 25.0632(a);
- 7 (6) Section 25.1032(e);
- 8 (7) Section 25.1033(e);
- 9 (8) Section 25.1132(g);
- 10 (9) Section 25.1142(c);
- 11 (10) Section 25.1312(k);
- 12 (11) Section 25.1412(b); and
- 13 (12) Section 25.2012(k).

14 SECTION 3. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this
15 section, the change in law made by this Act applies only to the
16 judge of a statutory county court elected or appointed on or after
17 the effective date of this Act. A judge of a statutory county court
18 elected or appointed before the effective date of this Act is
19 governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date
20 of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that
21 purpose.

22 (b) Section 25.0014(a)(4), Government Code, as added by
23 this Act, does not apply to a judge of a statutory county court
24 serving on the effective date of this Act who is subsequently
25 reelected or appointed as a judge of a statutory county court.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.