

By: Shapiro

S.B. No. 237

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the supreme court's adoption of rules on the electronic
3 filing of documents in civil cases in justice of the peace courts.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 22.004, Government Code, is amended by
6 adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

7 (f) The supreme court shall adopt rules governing the
8 electronic filing of documents in civil cases in justice of the
9 peace courts. The rules the court adopts under this subsection
10 must:

11 (1) be similar to local rules the court has approved
12 under Rule 3a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, that permit the
13 electronic filing of documents in other courts; and

14 (2) provide that electronic filing of documents is at
15 the option of a party to the case, unless the court orders the
16 electronic filing.

17 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2008, the supreme court
18 shall adopt the rules required by Section 22.004(f), Government
19 Code, as added by this Act.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.