

By: Harris

S.B. No. 399

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to postponement of jury service in certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 62, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 62.0144 to read as follows:

Sec. 62.0144. POSTPONEMENT OF JURY SERVICE IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a county with a population of at least 1.4 million and less than 2 million.

(b) A person summoned for jury service may request a postponement of the person's initial appearance for jury service. The person may request the postponement by contacting the clerk of the court, or the clerk's designee, in person, in writing, or by telephone before the date on which the person is summoned to appear.

(c) On receipt of a request under Subsection (b), the clerk of the court or the clerk's designee shall grant the person a postponement if:

(1) the person has not been granted a postponement in that county during the two-year period preceding the date on which the person is summoned to appear; and

(2) the person and the clerk or the clerk's designee determine a substitute date on which the person will appear for jury service that is not later than six months after the date on which the person was originally summoned to appear.

(d) A person who receives a postponement under Subsection

1 (c) may request subsequent postponements in the manner described by
2 Subsection (b). The clerk of the court or the clerk's designee may
3 approve a subsequent postponement if the clerk or the clerk's
4 designee determines that the person has a legitimate reason for
5 requesting the postponement. Before the clerk or the clerk's
6 designee may grant the subsequent postponement, the person and the
7 clerk or the clerk's designee must determine a substitute date on
8 which the person will appear for jury service that is not later than
9 six months after the date on which the person was to appear after
10 the later of:

11 (1) the postponement under Subsection (c); or

12 (2) the most recent postponement granted under this
13 subsection.

14 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
15 to a person summoned to appear for jury service who is required to
16 appear on or after the effective date of this Act. A person
17 summoned to appear for jury service who is required to appear before
18 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on
19 the date the person is required to appear, and the former law is
20 continued in effect for that purpose.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.