

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 1554

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the authority of a judge of a court of record to
3 determine the system of recordkeeping used to record the court's
4 proceedings.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 21, Government Code, is amended by
7 adding Section 21.010 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 21.010. SYSTEM OF RECORDKEEPING. (a) Subject to
9 Subsection (b), a judge of a court of record may determine the
10 system of recordkeeping the court will use to create a record of the
11 court's proceedings.

12 (b) The supreme court must approve a local rule authorizing
13 the use of an electronic system of recordkeeping in a court of
14 record before the court may implement that system.

15 (c) An electronic system of recordkeeping must provide a
16 record of the court's proceedings that is substantially similar in
17 content to the record a court reporter is required to provide under
18 Chapter 52 and under other applicable rules adopted by the supreme
19 court.

20 SECTION 2. Section 52.041, Government Code, is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 Sec. 52.041. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIAL COURT
23 REPORTER. Unless the judge chooses to use an electronic system of
24 recordkeeping as authorized by Section 21.010, the [Each] judge of

1 a court of record shall appoint an official court reporter. An
2 official court reporter is a sworn officer of the court and holds
3 office at the pleasure of the court.

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