

1-1 By: Castro (Senate Sponsor - Wentworth) H.B. No. 609
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 16, 2009;
1-3 April 16, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Jurisprudence; April 23, 2009, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; April 23, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the composition of the jury in certain adjudication
1-9 hearings in juvenile court.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 54.03(c), Family Code, is amended to
1-12 read as follows:

1-13 (c) Trial shall be by jury unless jury is waived in
1-14 accordance with Section 51.09. If the hearing is on a petition that
1-15 has been approved by the grand jury under Section 53.045, the jury
1-16 must consist of 12 persons and be selected in accordance with the
1-17 requirements in criminal cases. If the hearing is on a petition
1-18 that alleges conduct that violates a penal law of this state of the
1-19 grade of misdemeanor, the jury must consist of the number of persons
1-20 required by Article 33.01(b), Code of Criminal Procedure. Jury
1-21 verdicts under this title must be unanimous.

1-22 SECTION 2. Section 54.03(c), Family Code, as amended by
1-23 this Act, applies to an adjudication hearing conducted in a
1-24 juvenile court for which a jury is selected on or after the
1-25 effective date of this Act, regardless of the date the petition on
1-26 which the hearing is based was filed.

1-27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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