

By: Keffer

H.B. No. 2234

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the eligibility of certain judges to take the bar
3 examination.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 82, Government Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 82.0261 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 82.0261. SUBSTITUTION OF CERTAIN JUDICIAL SERVICE FOR
8 LAW STUDY REQUIREMENTS. (a) A person may substitute for the
9 prelegal study and training and law study required of a candidate
10 for the examination for a license to practice law:

11 (1) eight consecutive years of judicial service
12 hearing cases as a judge of a constitutional county court; or

13 (2) six consecutive years of judicial service hearing
14 cases as a judge of a constitutional county court if the person has
15 received a baccalaureate or advanced degree from a public or
16 private institution of higher education accredited by a regional
17 accrediting agency or group that is recognized by a nationally
18 recognized accreditation board.

19 (b) The person must meet the requirements of this section
20 before applying to take the examination.

21 (c) This section does not affect the supreme court
22 requirements relating to the moral character of a candidate for a
23 license to practice law.

24 (d) The person must give the clerk of the supreme court

1 notice of the person's intent to take a scheduled examination for a
2 license to practice law not later than the 30th day before the date
3 of the examination.

4 SECTION 2. The change in law made by Section 82.0261,
5 Government Code, as added by this Act, applies to an application to
6 take a bar examination made on or after the effective date of this
7 Act, regardless of whether the applicant's judicial service accrued
8 before, on, or after that date.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.