

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 55

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to judicial instruction for judges who hear complaints
3 against children alleging violations of certain misdemeanor
4 offenses.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 22, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 22.1105 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 22.1105. JUDICIAL INSTRUCTION RELATED TO CERTAIN
9 ALLEGED CHILD OFFENDERS. (a) Each judge of a court with
10 jurisdiction to hear a complaint against a child alleging a
11 violation of a misdemeanor offense punishable by fine only, other
12 than a traffic offense or public intoxication or a violation of a
13 penal ordinance of a political subdivision other than a traffic
14 offense, shall annually complete a course of instruction related to
15 understanding the problems of child welfare and the Individuals
16 with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Section 1400 et seq.).

17 (b) The court of criminal appeals shall adopt the rules
18 necessary to provide for the training required under Subsection
19 (a). The rules must require a judge described by Subsection (a) to
20 annually complete two to four hours of the required training.

21 (c) In adopting the rules, the court of criminal appeals may
22 consult with the supreme court and with professional groups and
23 associations in this state that have expertise in the subject
24 matter to obtain the recommendations of those groups or

1 associations for instructional content.

2 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than December 1, 2009, the Texas
3 Court of Criminal Appeals shall adopt the rules necessary to
4 provide the training required under Section 22.1105, Government
5 Code, as added by this Act.

6 (b) Notwithstanding Section 22.1105, Government Code, as
7 added by this Act, a judge who is in office on the effective date of
8 this Act is not required to complete the judicial training required
9 by Section 22.1105 before January 1, 2010.

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