

By: Huffman

S.B. No. 2193

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation and evaluation of certain pilot projects of the First and Fourteenth Courts of Appeals.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 22, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter C-1 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER C-1. PILOT PROJECTS DEVELOPED BY FIRST AND FOURTEENTH COURTS OF APPEALS

Sec. 22.250. DEFINITION. In this subchapter "courts of appeals" means the First and Fourteenth Courts of Appeals.

Sec. 22.251. PILOT PROJECT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES. The courts of appeals may implement a pilot project to jointly develop and implement human resources policies and procedures in accordance with this code and the provisions of the Texas Human Resources Management Statutes Inventory.

Sec. 22.252. PILOT PROJECT RELATED TO ACCESS THROUGH ON-LINE E-FILING SYSTEM BY PARTIES WHO REPRESENT THEMSELVES. The courts of appeals may implement a pilot project to jointly develop and implement policies and procedures that ensure adequate access to the appellate courts through the Texas Online e-filing system for parties who represent themselves in the courts of appeals.

SECTION 2. During the 2010-2011 biennium, the First and Fourteenth Courts of Appeals may evaluate whether the creation of a standardized human resources and employee manual is the most

1 efficient and effective method by which to develop, implement, and
2 maintain policies and procedures relating to employee management in
3 those courts.

4 SECTION 3. During the 2010-2011 biennium, the First and
5 Fourteenth Courts of Appeals may participate in a pilot project to
6 jointly develop and evaluate criteria to convert certain closed
7 civil and criminal case file documents to a digital format and to
8 destroy the remaining paper copies of those files. This criteria
9 must comply with all applicable provisions of the Government Code
10 pertaining to the retention and destruction of paper case file
11 documents and must be developed in consultation with the state
12 archivist. The courts may retain and destroy paper case file
13 documents from closed civil and criminal cases based on the
14 criteria developed under the pilot project.

15 SECTION 4. During the 2010-2011 biennium, the First and
16 Fourteenth Courts of Appeals may participate in a pilot project to
17 jointly develop common procedures for the continuity of operations
18 for the courts and for their recovery from disasters.

19 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.