

By: Quintanilla

H.B. No. 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to postponement of jury service in certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 62, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 62.0147 to read as follows:

Sec. 62.0147. MEANS OF POSTPONEMENT OF JURY SERVICE IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a county that has:

(1) a council of judges composed of the judges of the district courts and county courts at law; and

(2) a designated jury duty court that addresses administrative matters related to jury service paid for by the county.

(b) A person summoned for jury service may request a postponement of the person's initial appearance for jury service. The person may request the postponement by contacting the council of judges' designee, in person, in writing, or by telephone before the date on which the person is summoned to appear.

(c) On receipt of a request under Subsection (b), the council of judges' designee shall grant the person a postponement if:

(1) the person has not been granted a postponement in that county since the date on which the jury wheel from which the person was selected to appear was most recently reconstituted; and

1           (2) the designee and the person determine a substitute  
2 date on which the person will appear for jury service that is not  
3 later than six months after the date on which the person was  
4 originally summoned to appear.

5           (d) A person who is granted a postponement under Subsection  
6 (c) may request additional postponements in the manner described by  
7 Subsection (b). The council of judges' designee may grant an  
8 additional postponement if the designee and the person determine  
9 that the person has a legitimate reason for the postponement.  
10 Before the designee may grant the additional postponement, the  
11 designee and the person must determine a date on which the person  
12 will appear for jury service that is not later than six months after  
13 the date on which the person was to appear after the later of the  
14 date of:

15                   (1) a postponement under Subsection (c); or

16                   (2) the last postponement granted under this  
17 subsection.

18           SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
19 to a person summoned to appear for jury service who is required to  
20 appear on or after the effective date of this Act. A person  
21 summoned to appear for jury service who is required to appear before  
22 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on  
23 the date the person is required to appear, and the former law is  
24 continued in effect for that purpose.

25           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.