

By: Perry

H.B. No. 2479

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to alternative dispute resolution systems established by
3 counties.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 152.001, Civil Practices and Remedies
6 Code, is amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 152.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "alternative
8 dispute resolution system" means an informal forum in which
9 mediation, conciliation, or arbitration is used to resolve disputes
10 among individuals, entities, and units of government, including
11 those having an ongoing relationship such as relatives, neighbors,
12 landlords and tenants, employees and employers, and merchants and
13 consumers.

14 SECTION 2. Section 152.002(a), Civil Practices and Remedies
15 Code, is amended to read as follows:

16 (a) The commissioners court of a county by order may
17 establish an alternative dispute resolution system for the
18 peaceable and expeditious resolution of [~~citizen~~] disputes.

19 SECTION 3. Section 152.003, Civil Practices and Remedies
20 Code, is amended to read as follows:

21 Sec. 152.003. REFERRAL OF CASES. A judge of a district
22 court, county court, statutory county court, probate court, or
23 justice of the peace court in a county in which an alternative
24 dispute resolution system has been established may, on motion of a

1 party or on the judge's or justice's own motion, refer a civil or, on
2 the written consent of the state, a criminal case to the system.
3 Referral under this section does not prejudice the case.

4 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
5 a case referred to a county alternative dispute resolution system
6 on or after the effective date of this Act. A case referred before
7 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when
8 the case is referred, and the former law is continued in effect for
9 that purpose.

10 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.