

1-1 By: Rodriguez S.B. No. 1195  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 4, 2011; March 16, 2011, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Jurisprudence;  
1-4 April 6, 2011, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6,  
1-5 Nays 0; April 6, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to postponement of jury service in certain counties.

1-9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-10 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 62, Government Code, is  
1-11 amended by adding Section 62.0147 to read as follows:

1-12 Sec. 62.0147. MEANS OF POSTPONEMENT OF JURY SERVICE IN  
1-13 CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a county that  
1-14 has:

1-15 (1) a council of judges composed of the judges of the  
1-16 district courts and county courts at law; and

1-17 (2) a designated jury duty court that addresses  
1-18 administrative matters related to jury service paid for by the  
1-19 county.

1-20 (b) A person summoned for jury service may request a  
1-21 postponement of the person's initial appearance for jury service.  
1-22 The person may request the postponement by contacting the council  
1-23 of judges' designee, in person, in writing, or by telephone before  
1-24 the date on which the person is summoned to appear.

1-25 (c) On receipt of a request under Subsection (b), the  
1-26 council of judges' designee shall grant the person a postponement  
1-27 if:

1-28 (1) the person has not been granted a postponement in  
1-29 that county since the date on which the jury wheel from which the  
1-30 person was selected to appear was most recently reconstituted; and

1-31 (2) the designee and the person determine a substitute  
1-32 date on which the person will appear for jury service that is not  
1-33 later than six months after the date on which the person was  
1-34 originally summoned to appear.

1-35 (d) A person who is granted a postponement under Subsection  
1-36 (c) may request additional postponements in the manner described by  
1-37 Subsection (b). The council of judges' designee may grant an  
1-38 additional postponement if the designee and the person determine  
1-39 that the person has a legitimate reason for the postponement.  
1-40 Before the designee may grant the additional postponement, the  
1-41 designee and the person must determine a date on which the person  
1-42 will appear for jury service that is not later than six months after  
1-43 the date on which the person was to appear after the later of the  
1-44 date of:

1-45 (1) a postponement under Subsection (c); or

1-46 (2) the last postponement granted under this  
1-47 subsection.

1-48 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
1-49 to a person summoned to appear for jury service who is required to  
1-50 appear on or after the effective date of this Act. A person  
1-51 summoned to appear for jury service who is required to appear before  
1-52 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on  
1-53 the date the person is required to appear, and the former law is  
1-54 continued in effect for that purpose.

1-55 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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