

AN ACT

relating to alternative dispute resolution systems established by counties.

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a case referred to a county alternative dispute resolution system on or after the effective date of this Act. A case referred before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when the case is referred, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1271 passed the Senate on April 21, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 27, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1271 passed the House, with amendment, on May 23, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor