

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 565
By: West
Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

For many interested observers, the fundamental importance of a trial by jury in our system of justice is demonstrated by its enshrinement in the constitutions of both the United States and Texas. Further noting that the work of juries is critical to the function of our democracy and that without it many of the liberties and freedoms we have as a society would be in jeopardy, these interested parties assert the importance of a jury trial and that Texas citizens who serve on juries are worthy of special recognition. S.B. 565 seeks to pay the appropriate tribute to the many civic-minded Texans who selflessly respond when called to jury duty.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

S.B. 565 amends the Government Code to designate the first seven days in May as Jury Appreciation Week in recognition of the outstanding and important contributions made by Texas citizens who serve as jurors.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2015.