

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 560

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the qualifications for service as a grand juror.

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

SECTION 1. Article 19.08, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 19.08. QUALIFICATIONS. No person shall be selected or serve as a grand juror who does not possess the following qualifications:

1. The person must be a citizen of the state, and of the county in which the person is to serve, and be qualified under the Constitution and laws to vote in said county, provided that the person's failure to register to vote shall not be held to disqualify the person in this instance;

2. The person must be of sound mind and good moral character;

3. The person must be able to read and write;

4. The person must not have been convicted of misdemeanor theft or a felony;

5. The person must not be under indictment or other legal accusation for misdemeanor theft or a felony;

6. The person must not be related within the third degree of consanguinity or second degree of affinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, to any person selected to serve or serving on the same grand jury;

1 7. The person must not have served as a [~~grand juror~~
2 ~~or~~] jury commissioner in the year preceding [~~before~~] the date on
3 which the term of court for which the person has been selected as a
4 grand juror begins;

5 8. The person must not be a complainant in any matter
6 to be heard by the grand jury during the term of court for which the
7 person has been selected as a grand juror; and

8 9. The person must not have served as a grand juror
9 during the two-year period preceding the date on which the term of
10 court for which the person has been selected as a grand juror
11 begins.

12 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
13 to qualifications for grand jury service for a person required to
14 appear for grand jury service by a summons made on or after
15 September 1, 2015. The qualifications of a person required to
16 appear for grand jury service before September 1, 2015, are
17 governed by the law in effect on the date the summons is made, and
18 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.