

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 1851

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to promulgation of certain forms for use in  
landlord-tenant matters.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 22, Government Code, is  
amended by adding Section 22.019 to read as follows:

Sec. 22.019. PROMULGATION OF CERTAIN LANDLORD-TENANT  
FORMS. (a) The supreme court shall, as the court finds  
appropriate, promulgate forms for use by individuals representing  
themselves in residential landlord-tenant matters and instructions  
for the proper use of each form or set of forms.

(b) The forms and instructions:

(1) must be written in plain language that is easy to  
understand by the general public;

(2) shall be made readily available to the general  
public in the manner prescribed by the supreme court; and

(3) must be translated into the Spanish language as  
provided by Subsection (c).

(c) The Spanish language translation of a form must:

(1) state:

(A) that the Spanish language translated form is  
to be used solely for the purpose of assisting in understanding the  
form and may not be submitted to the court; and

(B) that the English language version of the form

1 must be submitted to the court; or

2 (2) be incorporated into the English language version  
3 of the form in a manner that is understandable to both the court and  
4 members of the general public.

5 (d) Each form and its instructions must clearly and  
6 conspicuously state that the form is not a substitute for the advice  
7 of an attorney.

8 (e) The clerk of a court shall inform members of the general  
9 public of the availability of a form promulgated by the supreme  
10 court under this section as appropriate and make the form available  
11 free of charge.

12 (f) A court shall accept a form promulgated by the supreme  
13 court under this section unless the form has been completed in a  
14 manner that causes a substantive defect that cannot be cured.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.