

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 1861

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to reports to the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System on the composition of grand and petit juries in each county.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 71, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 71.0354 to read as follows:

Sec. 71.0354. GRAND AND PETIT JURY COMPOSITION; STATISTICS; REPORT. (a) As a component of the official monthly report submitted to the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System under Section 71.035, a district court or county court at law shall report:

(1) the number of persons summoned to serve as grand jurors under Chapter 19, Code of Criminal Procedure, for each term of court;

(2) the age, gender, and race of each person described by Subdivision (1);

(3) the number of grand juries impaneled under Chapter 19, Code of Criminal Procedure;

(4) the age, gender, and racial composition of each grand jury described by Subdivision (3);

(5) the number of persons summoned to serve as petit jurors under Chapter 35, Code of Criminal Procedure, for each applicable case before the court;

1 (6) the age, gender, and race of each person described
2 by Subdivision (5);

3 (7) the number of petit juries impaneled under Chapter
4 35, Code of Criminal Procedure; and

5 (8) the age, gender, and racial composition of each
6 petit jury described by Subdivision (7).

7 (b) Not later than January 31 of each year, each county
8 shall submit to the office of court administration a report:

9 (1) comparing for the preceding calendar year the age,
10 gender, and racial composition of the county's grand and petit
11 juries with the age, gender, and racial demographics of the county;
12 and

13 (2) explaining any discrepancies between the two sets
14 of demographic information described by Subdivision (1).

15 (c) The office of court administration shall make each
16 report provided under Subsection (b) available to the public and
17 members of the press.

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.