

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 478

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the 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 must:

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

(2) clearly and conspicuously state that the form is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney;

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

(4) be translated into the Spanish language, and the Spanish language translation of the form must either:

(A) state 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 that the English version of the form must be submitted to the court;

1 or

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

5 (c) The clerk of a court shall inform members of the public
6 of the availability of the form as appropriate and make the form
7 available free of charge.

8 (d) A court shall accept a form promulgated by the supreme
9 court under this section unless the form has been completed in a
10 manner that causes a substantive defect that cannot be cured.

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