

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 478
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 6, 2015; February 10, 2015,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Business and Commerce;
 1-4 March 23, 2015, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9,
 1-5 Nays 0; March 23, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the promulgation of certain forms for use in
 1-20 landlord-tenant matters.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 22, Government Code, is
 1-23 amended by adding Section 22.019 to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 22.019. PROMULGATION OF CERTAIN LANDLORD-TENANT
 1-25 FORMS. (a) The supreme court shall, as the court finds
 1-26 appropriate, promulgate forms for use by individuals representing
 1-27 themselves in residential landlord-tenant matters and instructions
 1-28 for the proper use of each form or set of forms.

1-29 (b) The forms and instructions must:

1-30 (1) be written in plain language that is easy to
 1-31 understand by the general public;

1-32 (2) clearly and conspicuously state that the form is
 1-33 not a substitute for the advice of an attorney;

1-34 (3) be made readily available to the general public in
 1-35 the manner prescribed by the supreme court; and

1-36 (4) be translated into the Spanish language, and the
 1-37 Spanish language translation of the form must either:

1-38 (A) state that the Spanish language-translated
 1-39 form is to be used solely for the purpose of assisting in
 1-40 understanding the form and may not be submitted to the court, and
 1-41 that the English version of the form must be submitted to the court;
 1-42 or

1-43 (B) be incorporated into the English language
 1-44 form in a manner that is understandable to both the court and
 1-45 members of the public.

1-46 (c) The clerk of a court shall inform members of the public
 1-47 of the availability of the form as appropriate and make the form
 1-48 available free of charge.

1-49 (d) A court shall accept a form promulgated by the supreme
 1-50 court under this section unless the form has been completed in a
 1-51 manner that causes a substantive defect that cannot be cured.

1-52 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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