

1-1 By: Goldman (Senate Sponsor - Hancock) H.B. No. 3879
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 5, 2017;
1-3 May 10, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on Business
1-4 & Commerce; May 22, 2017, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 1;
1-6 May 22, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-7	COMMITTEE VOTE				
1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Hancock	X			
1-10	Creighton	X			
1-11	Campbell	X			
1-12	Estes	X			
1-13	Nichols			X	
1-14	Schwertner	X			
1-15	Taylor of Galveston	X			
1-16	Whitmire	X			
1-17	Zaffirini		X		

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 3879 By: Estes

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to nonlawyer representation in an appeal of an eviction
1-22 suit.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Section 24.011, Property Code, is amended to
1-25 read as follows:

1-26 Sec. 24.011. NONLAWYER REPRESENTATION. (a) In eviction
1-27 suits in justice court for nonpayment of rent or holding over beyond
1-28 a rental term, the parties may represent themselves or be
1-29 represented by their authorized agents, who need not be attorneys.
1-30 In any eviction suit in justice court, an authorized agent
1-31 requesting or obtaining a default judgment need not be an attorney.

1-32 (b) In an appeal of an eviction suit for nonpayment of rent
1-33 in a county or district court, the parties may represent
1-34 themselves, or a party may be represented by the party's authorized
1-35 agent, who need not be an attorney, including, if the party is a
1-36 corporation or other entity, by an employee, owner, officer, or
1-37 partner of the entity, who need not be an attorney.

1-38 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
1-39 to an appeal taken on or after the effective date of this Act.

1-40 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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