

AN ACT

relating to the creation of truancy masters for Bell County.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 54, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter B to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER B. BELL COUNTY TRUANCY MASTERS

Sec. 54.101. APPOINTMENT. (a) The Commissioners Court of Bell County may select masters to serve the justice courts of Bell County having jurisdiction in truancy matters.

(b) The commissioners court shall establish the salary, benefits, and other compensation of each master position and shall determine whether the position is full-time or part-time.

(c) A master appointed under this section serves at the pleasure of the commissioners court.

Sec. 54.102. JURISDICTION. A master appointed under this subchapter has concurrent jurisdiction with the judges of the justice of the peace courts of Bell County over cases involving truant conduct in accordance with Section 65.004, Family Code.

Sec. 54.103. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The Commissioners Court of Bell County shall establish the powers and duties of a master appointed under this subchapter.

(b) An order of referral may limit the use or power of a master.

(c) Unless limited by published local rule, by written

1 order, or by an order of referral, a master may perform all acts and
2 take all measures necessary and proper to perform the tasks
3 assigned in a referral.

4 (d) A master may administer oaths.

5 Sec. 54.104. JUDICIAL IMMUNITY. A master has the same
6 judicial immunity as a district judge.

7 Sec. 54.105. TRAINING. A master appointed under this
8 subchapter must successfully complete all training a justice of the
9 peace is required to complete under state law.

10 Sec. 54.106. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SUMMONS OR ORDER. If an
11 attorney, party, witness, or any other person fails to comply with a
12 summons or order, the master may certify that failure in writing to
13 the referring court for appropriate action.

14 Sec. 54.107. WITNESSES. (a) A witness appearing before a
15 master is subject to the penalties of perjury as provided by Chapter
16 37, Penal Code.

17 (b) A witness referred to the court under Section 54.106 is
18 subject to the same penalties and orders that may be imposed on a
19 witness appearing in a hearing before the court.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 452 was passed by the House on April 18, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 7, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 452 was passed by the Senate on May 17, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor