

By: Middleton

S.B. No. 930

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the publication of opinions by a court.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 21, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 21.013 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.013. PUBLICATION OF OPINIONS. The authorship of an opinion published by a court is public information. A court may not issue a per curiam decision.

SECTION 2. Section 72.086(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) For cases on the docket of the court during the reporting year, the supreme court shall annually report to the office:

(1) the average number of days from the date a case is filed with the court until the date the court releases an order announcing its decision granting, overruling, denying, or dismissing an application, petition, or motion;

(2) the average number of days from the date of the granting of an application, petition, or motion until the date of oral argument of the case; and

(3) the average number of days from the date of the oral argument of the case until the date the court issues a signed opinion and judgment for the case[~~, and~~

~~[(4) the average number of days from the date of filing~~

1 ~~of a case with the court until the date of the release of a per~~
2 ~~curiam opinion].~~

3 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
4 to an opinion published by a court on or after the effective date of
5 this Act. A court opinion published before the effective date of
6 this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the opinion was
7 published, and the former law is continued in effect for that
8 purpose.

9 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.