

By: Hughes, et al.

S.B. No. 17

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation and administration of and practices and procedures related to proceedings in the judicial branch of state government, including court security, court documents and arrest warrants, document delivery, juvenile boards, constitutional amendment election challenges, record retention, youth diversion, court-ordered mental health services, the powers of the Texas Supreme Court, and jurors; increasing a criminal penalty; authorizing fees.

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

ARTICLE 1. DISTRICT COURTS, DISTRICT CLERKS, AND DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

SECTION 1.01. Effective January 1, 2027, the heading to Section 24.127, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 24.127. 522ND [~~SECOND—25TH~~] JUDICIAL DISTRICT (~~[[COLORADO,]]~~ GONZALES AND ~~[[GUADALUPE,]]~~ ~~[[AND LAVACA]]~~ COUNTIES).

SECTION 1.02. Effective January 1, 2027, Section 24.127(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The 522nd [~~Second—25th~~] Judicial District is composed of ~~[[Colorado,]]~~ Gonzales and ~~[[Guadalupe,]]~~ ~~[[and Lavaca]]~~ counties.

SECTION 1.03. Section 24.360, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 24.360. 173RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT (HENDERSON COUNTY).

(a) The 173rd Judicial District is composed of Henderson County.

1 (b) The 173rd District Court shall give preference to civil
2 and family law matters.

3 SECTION 1.04. Effective January 1, 2026, the heading to
4 Section 24.451, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

5 Sec. 24.451. 274TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (COMAL[~~, GUADALUPE,~~]
6 AND HAYS COUNTIES).

7 SECTION 1.05. Effective January 1, 2026, Sections 24.451(a)
8 and (c), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

9 (a) The 274th Judicial District is composed of Comal[~~,~~
10 ~~Guadalupe,~~] and Hays counties.

11 (c) The 274th District Court has the same jurisdiction as
12 the 22nd and the 207th district courts in Comal and Hays counties
13 [~~and concurrent jurisdiction with the 25th and Second 25th district~~
14 ~~courts in Guadalupe County~~].

15 SECTION 1.06. Section 24.537, Government Code, is amended
16 by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

17 (c) The 392nd District Court shall give preference to
18 criminal cases.

19 SECTION 1.07. Section 24.591(c), Government Code, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 (c) The district clerk serves as clerk of a district court
22 in all criminal and civil matters, including family matters, except
23 the county clerk serves as clerk of a district court in Class A and
24 Class B misdemeanor cases, juvenile matters, probate matters, and
25 guardianship matters. Each clerk shall establish a separate docket
26 for a district court [~~All civil and criminal matters within the~~
27 ~~concurrent jurisdiction of the county and district courts must be~~

~~filed with the county clerk in the county court. The county clerk serves as the clerk of the district court for those matters].~~

SECTION 1.08. (a) Effective September 1, 2026, Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 24.60035 to read as follows:

Sec. 24.60035. 490TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (BRAZORIA COUNTY). The 490th Judicial District is composed of Brazoria County.

(b) The 490th Judicial District is created on September 1, 2026.

SECTION 1.09. (a) Effective September 1, 2026, Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 24.60037 to read as follows:

Sec. 24.60037. 492ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT (COLORADO AND LAVACA COUNTIES). The 492nd Judicial District is composed of Colorado and Lavaca counties.

(b) The 492nd Judicial District is created on September 1, 2026.

SECTION 1.10. Effective January 1, 2026, Section 24.60043(d), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The district clerk serves as the clerk of a district court in all criminal and civil matters, including family matters, except the county clerk serves as the clerk of a district court in Class A and Class B misdemeanor cases, juvenile matters, probate matters, and guardianship matters. Each clerk shall establish a separate docket for a district court ~~[All civil and criminal matters within the concurrent jurisdiction of the county and district courts must be filed with the county clerk in the county~~

~~court. The county clerk serves as the clerk of the district court
for those matters].~~

SECTION 1.11. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 24.60046 and 24.60047 to read as follows:

Sec. 24.60046. 501ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT (FORT BEND COUNTY).
The 501st Judicial District is composed of Fort Bend County.

Sec. 24.60047. 502ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT (FORT BEND COUNTY).
The 502nd Judicial District is composed of Fort Bend County.

(b) The 501st and 502nd Judicial Districts are created on the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 1.12. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 24.60048 to read as follows:

Sec. 24.60048. 503RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT (ROCKWALL COUNTY).
The 503rd Judicial District is composed of Rockwall County.

(b) The 503rd Judicial District is created on the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 1.13. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 24.60049 to read as follows:

Sec. 24.60049. 504TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (ELLIS COUNTY). The
504th Judicial District is composed of Ellis County.

(b) The 504th Judicial District is created on the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 1.14. (a) Effective September 1, 2026, Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 24.60053 to read as follows:

Sec. 24.60053. 511TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (COMAL COUNTY). The

511th Judicial District is composed of Comal County.

(b) The 511th Judicial District is created on September 1, 2026.

SECTION 1.15. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 24.60054 to read as follows:

Sec. 24.60054. 512TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (WILLIAMSON COUNTY). The 512th Judicial District is composed of Williamson County.

(b) The 512th Judicial District is created on the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 1.16. (a) Effective January 1, 2026, Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 24.60055, 24.60056, and 24.60057 to read as follows:

Sec. 24.60055. 513TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (HARRIS COUNTY).

(a) The 513th Judicial District is composed of Harris County.

(b) The 513th District Court shall give preference to civil cases.

Sec. 24.60056. 514TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (HARRIS COUNTY).

(a) The 514th Judicial District is composed of Harris County.

(b) The 514th District Court shall give preference to civil cases.

Sec. 24.60057. 515TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (HARRIS COUNTY).

(a) The 515th Judicial District is composed of Harris County.

(b) The 515th District Court shall give preference to civil cases.

(b) The 513th, 514th, and 515th District Courts are created on January 1, 2026.

SECTION 1.17. (a) Effective October 1, 2026, Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 24.60058 and 24.60059 to read as follows:

Sec. 24.60058. 516TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (HARRIS COUNTY).

(a) The 516th Judicial District is composed of Harris County.

(b) The 516th District Court shall give preference to civil cases.

Sec. 24.60059. 517TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (HARRIS COUNTY).

(a) The 517th Judicial District is composed of Harris County.

(b) The 517th District Court shall give preference to civil cases.

(b) The 516th and 517th District Courts are created on October 1, 2026.

SECTION 1.18. Section 24.911, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:

(a-2) Tarrant County Criminal District Court No. 2 shall give preference to criminal cases.

SECTION 1.19. Section 24.913, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) Tarrant County Criminal District Court No. 4 shall give preference to criminal cases.

SECTION 1.20. Effective September 1, 2028, Section 43.101, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 43.101. 1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT. The voters of [~~Sabine and~~] San Augustine County [~~counties~~] elect a district attorney for the 1st Judicial District who represents the state in the [~~that~~] district courts in that county [~~court only in those counties~~].

SECTION 1.21. (a) Effective January 1, 2029, Subchapter B, Chapter 43, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 43.1742 to read as follows:

Sec. 43.1742. 273RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT. The voters of Sabine County elect a district attorney for the 273rd Judicial District who represents the state in the district courts in that county.

(b) The office of district attorney for the 273rd Judicial District is created on September 1, 2028.

SECTION 1.22. Effective January 1, 2029, Section 43.177, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 43.177. 293RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT. (a) The voters of Maverick County ~~[the 293rd Judicial District]~~ elect a district attorney who represents the state in all cases before the ~~[that]~~ district court.

(b) The commissioners court of Maverick County ~~[one or more of the counties comprising the district]~~ may supplement the state salary of the district attorney and ~~[. The commissioners court of each county may]~~ set the amount of supplemental compensation paid by that county.

(c) The district attorney of the 293rd Judicial District also represents the state in all criminal and civil matters that arise in the 365th Judicial District in Maverick County.

SECTION 1.23. (a) Effective January 1, 2029, Subchapter B, Chapter 43, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 43.1812 to read as follows:

Sec. 43.1812. 365TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT. The voters of

Dimmit and Zavala Counties elect a district attorney for the 365th Judicial District who represents the state in all civil and criminal matters in the district courts having jurisdiction in those counties.

(b) The office of district attorney for the 365th Judicial District is created on January 1, 2029.

(c) The office of district attorney for the 365th Judicial District exists for purposes of the primary and general elections in 2028.

SECTION 1.24. Effective January 1, 2029, Section 46.002, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 46.002. PROSECUTORS SUBJECT TO CHAPTER. This chapter applies to the state prosecuting attorney, all county prosecutors, and the following state prosecutors:

(1) the district attorneys for Kenedy and Kleberg Counties and for the 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 18th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, 26th, 27th, 29th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 38th, 39th, 42nd, 43rd, 46th, 47th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 63rd, 64th, 66th, 69th, 70th, 76th, 79th, 81st, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 88th, 90th, 97th, 100th, 105th, 106th, 109th, 110th, 112th, 118th, 119th, 123rd, 132nd, 142nd, 143rd, 145th, 156th, 159th, 173rd, 196th, 198th, 216th, 220th, 229th, 235th, 253rd, 258th, 259th, 266th, 268th, 271st, 273rd, 286th, 287th, 329th, 344th, 349th, 355th, 369th, 452nd, and 506th judicial districts;

(2) the criminal district attorneys for the counties of Anderson, Austin, Bastrop, Bexar, Bowie, Brazoria, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cass, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Deaf Smith, Denton, Eastland,

1 Fannin, Galveston, Grayson, Gregg, Harrison, Hays, Hidalgo,
2 Jasper, Jefferson, Kaufman, Kendall, Lubbock, McLennan, Madison,
3 Medina, Navarro, Newton, Panola, Polk, Randall, Rockwall, San
4 Jacinto, Smith, Tarrant, Taylor, Tyler, Upshur, Van Zandt,
5 Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wichita, Wood, and Yoakum; and

6 (3) the county attorneys performing the duties of
7 district attorneys in the counties of Andrews, Aransas, Burleson,
8 Callahan, Cameron, Castro, Colorado, Crosby, Ellis, Falls,
9 Fayette, Freestone, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Lamar, Lamb, Lampasas,
10 Lavaca, Lee, Limestone, Marion, Milam, Morris, Ochiltree, Oldham,
11 Orange, Rains, Red River, Robertson, Rusk, Swisher, Terry, Webb,
12 and Willacy.

13 SECTION 1.25. Effective January 1, 2026, the following
14 provisions of the Government Code are repealed:

- 15 (1) Sections 24.126(b) and (d);
16 (2) Sections 24.127(b) and (c); and
17 (3) Section 24.451(b).

18 ARTICLE 2. STATUTORY COUNTY COURTS

19 SECTION 2.01. Sections 22.004(b) and (h-1), Government
20 Code, are amended to read as follows:

21 (b) The supreme court from time to time may promulgate a
22 specific rule or rules of civil procedure, or an amendment or
23 amendments to a specific rule or rules, to be effective at the time
24 the supreme court deems expedient in the interest of a proper
25 administration of justice. The rules and amendments to rules
26 remain in effect unless and until disapproved by the
27 legislature. The clerk of the supreme court shall file with the

1 secretary of state the rules or amendments to rules promulgated by
2 the supreme court under this subsection and shall provide ~~[mail]~~ a
3 copy of those rules or amendments to rules to each registered member
4 of the State Bar of Texas not later than the 60th day before the date
5 on which they become effective. On receiving a written request
6 from a member of the legislature, the secretary of state shall
7 provide the member with electronic notifications when the supreme
8 court has promulgated rules or amendments to rules under this
9 section.

10 (h-1) In addition to the rules adopted under Subsection (h),
11 the supreme court shall adopt rules to promote the prompt,
12 efficient, and cost-effective resolution of civil actions filed in
13 county courts at law in which the amount in controversy does not
14 exceed \$325,000 ~~[\$250,000]~~. The rules shall balance the need for
15 lowering discovery costs in these actions against the complexity of
16 and discovery needs in these actions. The supreme court may not
17 adopt rules under this subsection that conflict with other
18 statutory law.

19 SECTION 2.02. Section 25.0003(c), Government Code, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 (c) In addition to other jurisdiction provided by law, a
22 statutory county court exercising civil jurisdiction concurrent
23 with the constitutional jurisdiction of the county court has
24 concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:

25 (1) civil cases in which the matter in controversy
26 exceeds \$500 but does not exceed \$325,000 ~~[\$250,000]~~, excluding
27 interest, statutory or punitive damages and penalties, and

attorney's fees and costs, as alleged on the face of the petition;
and

(2) appeals of final rulings and decisions of the division of workers' compensation of the Texas Department of Insurance regarding workers' compensation claims, regardless of the amount in controversy.

SECTION 2.03. Section 25.0007(c), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) In a civil case pending in a statutory county court in which the matter in controversy exceeds \$325,000 [~~\$250,000~~], the jury shall be composed of 12 members unless all of the parties agree to a jury composed of a lesser number of jurors.

SECTION 2.04. Section 25.00212, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) At the end of each state fiscal year, the comptroller shall determine:

(1) the amounts deposited in the judicial fund under Section 133.151(c)(1), Local Government Code, from [by] statutory probate courts fees remitted under Section 133.151(a)(1), Local Government Code, either:

(A) directly to the treasury by the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System for fees paid using the electronic filing system established under Section 72.031; or

(B) to the comptroller in the manner provided by Subchapter B, Chapter 133, Local Government Code, for fees paid to

1 an officer of a court; and

2 (2) the sum of the amount paid under Section
3 25.0022(e) and the total amounts paid to the counties under Section
4 25.00211.

5 (a-1) If the comptroller determines the total amount
6 deposited in the judicial fund by statutory probate courts in all
7 counties as calculated under Subsection (a)(1) exceeds the sum
8 calculated under Subsection (a)(2) [that sum], the comptroller
9 [state] shall remit the excess proportionately to each county that
10 contributed [deposited] a greater amount to [in] the judicial fund
11 from fees collected by a statutory probate court than the amount the
12 county was paid under Section 25.00211, as adjusted in an equitable
13 manner to reflect the differences in the total amounts paid to the
14 counties under Section 25.00211.

15 SECTION 2.05. Section 25.0022(f), Government Code, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (f) Each county pays annually to the presiding judge, from
18 fees allocated to the judicial education and support fund under
19 [collected pursuant to] Section 135.102 [118.052(2)(A)(vi)], Local
20 Government Code, the amount of the salary apportioned [to it] as
21 provided by this section and the other expenses authorized by this
22 section. The presiding judge shall place each county's payment of
23 salary and other expenses in an administrative fund, from which the
24 salary and other expenses are paid. The salary shall be paid in
25 equal monthly installments.

26 SECTION 2.06. Section 25.0062(b), Government Code, is
27 amended to read as follows:

(b) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at law in felony cases, in family law cases and proceedings, and in civil cases in which the matter in controversy exceeds \$325,000 [~~\$250,000~~]. The county clerk serves as clerk of a county court at law in all other cases. The district clerk shall establish a separate docket for a county court at law. The commissioners court shall provide the deputy clerks, bailiffs, and other personnel necessary to operate a county court at law.

SECTION 2.07. (a) Section 25.0092, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (d) and adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and other law, and except as limited by Subsection (b), a county court at law in Atascosa County has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:

- (1) Class A and Class B misdemeanor cases;
- (2) family law matters;
- (3) juvenile matters;
- (4) probate matters; ~~and~~
- (5) appeals from the justice and municipal courts; and
- (6) civil cases in which the matter in controversy exceeds the maximum amount provided by Section 25.0003 but does not exceed \$1 million, excluding interest, statutory or punitive damages and penalties, and attorney's fees and costs, as alleged on the face of the petition, including:

- (A) a suit to decide the issue of title to real or personal property;

1 (B) a suit for the enforcement of a lien on real
2 property;

3 (C) a suit for the trial of the right to property
4 valued at \$500 or more that has been levied on under a writ of
5 execution, sequestration, or attachment; and

6 (D) a suit for the recovery of real property.

7 (c-1) In addition to other assignments provided by law, a
8 judge of the county court at law in Atascosa County is subject to
9 assignment under Chapter 74 to any district court in Atascosa
10 County. A county court at law judge assigned to a district court
11 may hear any matter pending in the district court.

12 (d) The judge of a county court at law shall be paid as
13 provided by Section 25.0005 ~~[a total annual salary set by the~~
14 ~~commissioners court at an amount that is not less than \$1,000 less~~
15 ~~than the total annual salary received by a district judge in the~~
16 ~~county. A district judge's or statutory county court judge's total~~
17 ~~annual salary does not include contributions and supplements paid~~
18 ~~by a county]~~.

19 (b) Section 25.0092(a), Government Code, as amended by this
20 section, applies only to a case filed or proceeding commenced on or
21 after the effective date of this Act. A case filed or proceeding
22 commenced before that date is governed by the law in effect on the
23 date the case was filed or the proceeding was commenced, and the
24 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

25 SECTION 2.08. Section 25.0212, Government Code, is amended
26 by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (f) and adding Subsections
27 (i) and (j) to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and other law and except as limited by Subsection (b), a county court at law in Bowie County has, concurrent with the district court, the jurisdiction provided by the constitution and by general law for district courts, including concurrent jurisdiction in:

- (1) specialty court programs;
- (2) misdemeanor cases;
- (3) family law cases and proceedings, including juvenile matters; and
- (4) probate and guardianship matters.

(b) A county court at law does not have jurisdiction of:

- (1) felony criminal matters;
- (2) suits on behalf of the state to recover penalties or escheated property;
- (3) misdemeanors involving official misconduct;
- (4) contested elections; or
- (5) civil cases in which the matter in controversy exceeds the amount provided in Section 25.0003 ~~[\$200,000]~~, excluding interest, statutory or punitive damages and penalties, and attorney's fees and costs, as alleged on the face of the petition.

(f) The ~~[commissioners court may authorize the judge of a county court at law to set the]~~ official court reporter of a county court at law is entitled to compensation, fees, and allowances in amounts equal to the amounts paid to the official court reporters serving the district courts in Bowie County, including an annual

1 salary set by the judge of the county court at law and approved by
2 the commissioners court [~~reporter's salary~~].

3 (i) The jury in all civil or criminal matters is composed of
4 12 members, except in misdemeanor criminal cases and any other case
5 in which the court has concurrent jurisdiction with county courts
6 under Section 25.0003(a), the jury is composed of six members.

7 (j) In matters of concurrent jurisdiction, a judge of a
8 county court at law and a judge of a district court with
9 jurisdiction in Bowie County may transfer cases between the courts
10 in the same manner that judges of district courts may transfer cases
11 under Section 24.003.

12 SECTION 2.09. (a) Section 25.1031(a), Government Code, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 (a) Harris County has the following county civil courts at
15 law:

16 (1) County Civil Court at Law No. 1 of Harris County,
17 Texas;

18 (2) County Civil Court at Law No. 2 of Harris County,
19 Texas;

20 (3) County Civil Court at Law No. 3 of Harris County,
21 Texas; [~~and~~]

22 (4) County Civil Court at Law No. 4 of Harris County,
23 Texas; and

24 (5) County Civil Court at Law No. 5 of Harris County,
25 Texas.

26 (b) The County Civil Court at Law No. 5 of Harris County is
27 created on the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 2.10. (a) Section 25.1101(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Hidalgo County has the following statutory probate courts:

(1) ~~[one statutory probate court, the]~~ Probate Court No. 1 of Hidalgo County; and

(2) Probate Court No. 2 of Hidalgo County.

(b) On the effective date of this section:

(1) Probate Court No. 2 of Hidalgo County is created; and

(2) the Probate Court of Hidalgo County is redesignated as Probate Court No. 1 of Hidalgo County.

(c) This section takes effect immediately if this Act receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this section takes effect on the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 2.11. (a) Section 25.1102(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in Hidalgo County has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:

(1) family law cases and proceedings; and

(2) civil cases ~~[in which the matter in controversy does not exceed \$750,000, excluding interest, statutory or punitive damages and penalties, and attorney's fees and costs, as alleged on the page of the petition]~~.

(b) Section 25.1102(a), Government Code, as amended by this section, applies only to an action filed in a county court at law in Hidalgo County on or after the effective date of this section. An action filed in a county court at law in Hidalgo County before the effective date of this section is governed by the law in effect on the date the action was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

(c) This section takes effect immediately if this Act receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this section takes effect on the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 2.12. Section 25.1902(b-1), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b-1) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Subsections (a) and (b), the county courts at law in ~~[County Court at Law No. 1 of]~~ Potter County have ~~[has]~~ concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in felony cases to conduct arraignments, conduct pretrial hearings, and accept pleas in uncontested matters.

SECTION 2.13. Section 25.2282, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in Tom Green County has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in family law cases and proceedings.

SECTION 2.14. Sections 25.2452(b), (c), (d), and (e), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) All misdemeanor cases, probate and mental health matters, proceedings under the Estates Code, and appeals from municipal courts of record shall be filed in the county court at law. A county court at law may transfer a case or an appeal described by this subsection to the county court with the consent of the county judge.

(c) Except as provided by Section 25.0003 and Subsection (d), a county court at law has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:

(1) family law cases and proceedings under the Family Code; ~~and~~

(2) civil cases in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$500 but does not exceed \$200,000, excluding interest, exemplary damages, penalties, attorney's fees, and court costs;

(3) felony cases to accept guilty pleas; and

(4) appeals from the justice courts.

(d) A county court at law does not have jurisdiction of:

(1) a case under:

(A) the Alcoholic Beverage Code;

(B) the Election Code; or

(C) the Tax Code; or

(2) a matter over which the district court has exclusive jurisdiction~~[, or~~

~~[(3) a civil case, other than a case under the Family Code or the Estates Code, in which the amount in controversy is:~~

~~[(A) less than the maximum amount in controversy allowed the justice court in Wichita County; or~~

1 ~~[(B) more than \$200,000, exclusive of punitive or~~
2 ~~exemplary damages, penalties, interest, costs, and attorney's~~
3 ~~fees].~~

4 (e) On the motion of any party, a county court at law may
5 transfer a civil case originally filed in a county court at law that
6 exceeds the maximum amount in controversy described by Subsection
7 (c)(2) ~~[(d)(3)(B)]~~ to the district court in Wichita County, except
8 that an announcement of ready for trial by all parties before a
9 motion to transfer the case to the district court is filed confers
10 original jurisdiction on the county court at law. A case that is
11 transferred to the district court shall be completed under the same
12 cause number and in the same manner as if the case were originally
13 filed in the district court.

14 SECTION 2.15. Section [25.2704](#)(a), Government Code, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section
17 [25.0003](#) and other law, the 2nd Multicounty Court at Law has
18 concurrent jurisdiction with the district courts, including
19 ~~[except]~~ in civil cases in which the matter in controversy exceeds
20 the maximum amount provided by Section [25.0003](#)(c)(1).

21 SECTION 2.16. (a) Sections [25.0212](#)(d) and [25.1723](#)(c),
22 Government Code, are repealed.

23 (b) Section [25.1723](#)(c), Government Code, as repealed by
24 this section, applies only to an action filed on or after the
25 effective date of this Act. An action filed before that date is
26 governed by the law in effect immediately before that date, and that
27 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1 SECTION 2.17. Sections 25.0003(c), 25.0007(c), and
2 25.0062(b), Government Code, as amended by this article, apply only
3 to a civil case filed in a statutory county court on or after the
4 effective date of this Act. A civil case filed in a statutory
5 county court before that date is governed by the law in effect
6 immediately before that date, and the former law is continued in
7 effect for that purpose.

8 SECTION 2.18. Section 25.00212, Government Code, as amended
9 by this article, applies to amounts deposited in the judicial fund
10 under Section 133.151(c)(1), Local Government Code, from fees
11 collected by a statutory probate court before, on, or after the
12 effective date of this Act.

13 SECTION 2.19. Section 25.2282, Government Code, as amended
14 by this article, applies only to a case filed or proceeding
15 commenced on or after the effective date of this Act. A case filed
16 or proceeding commenced before that date is governed by the law in
17 effect on the date the action was filed, and the former law is
18 continued in effect for that purpose.

19 SECTION 2.20. Section 25.2452, Government Code, as amended
20 by this article, applies only to an action filed in a county court
21 at law in Wichita County on or after the effective date of this Act.
22 An action filed in a county court at law in Wichita County before
23 that date is governed by the law in effect on the date the action was
24 filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

25 SECTION 2.21. Section 25.2704(a), Government Code, as
26 amended by this article, applies only to a case filed or proceeding
27 commenced on or after the effective date of this Act. A case filed

1 or proceeding commenced before that date is governed by the law in
2 effect on the date the case was filed or the proceeding was
3 commenced, and the former law is continued in effect for that
4 purpose.

5 ARTICLE 3. MUNICIPAL COURT PROVISIONS

6 SECTION 3.01. Section 29.014, Government Code, is amended
7 by amending Subsections (c) and (d) and adding Subsection (e) to
8 read as follows:

9 (c) The committee shall establish the policies and
10 procedures necessary to provide adequate security to the municipal
11 courts served by the presiding or municipal judge, as applicable,
12 including by developing a court emergency management plan.

13 (d) A committee shall ~~may~~ recommend to the municipality
14 the uses of resources and expenditures of money for courthouse
15 security, but may not direct the assignment of those resources or
16 the expenditure of those funds.

17 (e) Notwithstanding Section 551.001 or 552.003, a court
18 security committee established under this section is not a
19 governmental body for the purposes of Chapter 551 or 552.

20 SECTION 3.02. Section 30.00007, Government Code, is amended
21 by amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsection (d) to
22 read as follows:

23 (b) The presiding judge shall:

24 (1) maintain a central docket for cases filed within
25 the territorial limits of the municipality over which the municipal
26 courts of record have jurisdiction;

27 (2) provide for the distribution of cases from the

1 central docket to the individual municipal judges to equalize the
2 distribution of business in the courts;

3 (3) request the jurors needed for cases that are set
4 for trial by jury;

5 (4) temporarily assign judges or substitute judges to
6 exchange benches and to act for each other in a proceeding pending
7 in a court if necessary for the expeditious disposition of business
8 in the courts;

9 (5) supervise and control the operation and clerical
10 functions of the administrative department of each court, including
11 the court's personnel, during the proceedings of the court; and

12 (6) establish a court security committee to adopt
13 security policies and procedures for the courts served by the
14 presiding judge, including by developing a court emergency
15 management plan, that is composed of:

16 (A) the presiding judge, or the presiding judge's
17 designee, who serves as presiding officer of the committee;

18 (B) a representative of the law enforcement
19 agency or other entity that provides the primary security for the
20 court;

21 (C) a representative of the municipality; and

22 (D) any other person the committee determines
23 necessary to assist the committee.

24 (c) A court security committee shall ~~may~~ recommend to the
25 governing body the uses of resources and expenditures of money for
26 courthouse security, but may not direct the assignment of those
27 resources or the expenditure of those funds.

1 (d) Notwithstanding Section 551.001 or 552.003, a court
2 security committee established under this section is not a
3 governmental body for the purposes of Chapter 551 or 552.

4 SECTION 3.03. Section 30.01014(d), Government Code, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (d) ~~[In addition to satisfying the requirements of Section~~
7 ~~30.00006(c), a municipal judge must maintain residence in the city~~
8 ~~during the tenure of office and must be a resident of the city at the~~
9 ~~time of appointment or election.]~~ The judge shall devote as much
10 time to the office as it requires.

11 SECTION 3.04. Chapter 30, Government Code, is amended by
12 adding Subchapter AAA to read as follows:

13 SUBCHAPTER AAA. CANYON

14 Sec. 30.01911. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies to
15 the city of Canyon.

16 Sec. 30.01912. JUDGE. A municipal judge for the city of
17 Canyon is not required to be a resident of the city.

18 SECTION 3.05. As soon as practicable after the effective
19 date of this Act, a court security committee shall develop a court
20 emergency management plan as required by Section 29.014 or
21 30.00007, Government Code, as amended by this article.

22 ARTICLE 4. VISITING JUDGES

23 SECTION 4.01. Sections 25.0022(d), (h), (k), (o), (t), (u),
24 and (w), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

25 (d) The presiding judge shall:

26 (1) ensure the promulgation of local rules of
27 administration in accordance with policies and guidelines set by

1 the supreme court;

2 (2) advise local statutory probate court judges on
3 case flow management practices and auxiliary court services;

4 (3) perform a duty of a local administrative statutory
5 probate court judge if the local administrative judge does not
6 perform that duty;

7 (4) appoint an assistant presiding judge of the
8 statutory probate courts;

9 (5) call and preside over annual meetings of the
10 judges of the statutory probate courts at a time and place in the
11 state as designated by the presiding judge;

12 (6) call and convene other meetings of the judges of
13 the statutory probate courts as considered necessary by the
14 presiding judge to promote the orderly and efficient administration
15 of justice in the statutory probate courts;

16 (7) study available statistics reflecting the
17 condition of the dockets of the probate courts in the state to
18 determine the need for the assignment of judges under this section;

19 (8) compare local rules of court to achieve uniformity
20 of rules to the extent practical and consistent with local
21 conditions;

22 (9) assign or order the clerk who serves the statutory
23 probate courts to randomly assign a judge or former or retired judge
24 of a statutory probate court or a former or retired justice of an
25 appellate court to hear a case under Section [25.002201\(a\)](#) or
26 [25.00255](#), as applicable; and

27 (10) require the local administrative judge for

1 statutory probate courts in a county to ensure that all statutory
2 probate courts in the county comply with Chapter 37.

3 (h) Subject to Section 25.002201, a judge or a former or
4 retired judge of a statutory probate court or a former or retired
5 justice of an appellate court may be assigned by the presiding judge
6 of the statutory probate courts to hold court in a statutory probate
7 court, a county court, or any statutory court exercising probate
8 jurisdiction when:

9 (1) a statutory probate judge requests assignment of
10 another judge to the judge's court;

11 (2) a statutory probate judge is absent, disabled, or
12 disqualified for any reason;

13 (3) a statutory probate judge is present or is trying
14 cases as authorized by the constitution and laws of this state and
15 the condition of the court's docket makes it necessary to appoint an
16 additional judge;

17 (4) the office of a statutory probate judge is vacant;

18 (5) the presiding judge of an administrative judicial
19 district requests the assignment of a statutory probate judge to
20 hear a probate matter in a county court or statutory county court;

21 (6) the statutory probate judge is recused or
22 disqualified as described by Section 25.002201(a);

23 (7) a county court judge requests the assignment of a
24 statutory probate judge to hear a probate matter in the county
25 court; or

26 (8) a local administrative statutory probate court
27 judge requests the assignment of a statutory probate judge to hear a

1 matter in a statutory probate court.

2 (k) The daily compensation of a former or retired judge or
3 justice for purposes of this section is set at an amount equal to
4 the daily compensation of a judge of a statutory probate court in
5 the county in which the former or retired judge or justice is
6 assigned. A former or retired judge or justice assigned to a county
7 that does not have a statutory probate court shall be paid an amount
8 equal to the daily compensation of a judge of a statutory probate
9 court in the county where the assigned judge or justice was last
10 elected.

11 (o) The county in which the assigned judge served shall pay
12 out of the general fund of the county:

13 (1) expenses certified under Subsection (m) to the
14 assigned judge; and

15 (2) the salary certified under Subsection (m) to the
16 county in which the assigned judge serves, or, if the assigned judge
17 is a former or retired judge or justice, to the assigned judge.

18 (t) To be eligible for assignment under this section, a
19 former or retired judge of a statutory probate court or a former or
20 retired justice of an appellate court must:

21 (1) not have been removed from office;

22 (2) certify under oath to the presiding judge, on a
23 form prescribed by the state board of regional judges, that:

24 (A) the judge or justice has not been publicly
25 reprimanded or censured by the State Commission on Judicial
26 Conduct; and

27 (B) the judge or justice:

1 (i) did not resign or retire from office
2 after the State Commission on Judicial Conduct notified the judge
3 or justice of the commencement of a full investigation into an
4 allegation or appearance of misconduct or disability of the judge
5 or justice as provided in Section 33.022 and before the final
6 disposition of that investigation; or

7 (ii) if the judge or justice did resign from
8 office under circumstances described by Subparagraph (i), was not
9 publicly reprimanded or censured as a result of the investigation;

10 (3) annually demonstrate that the judge or justice has
11 completed in the past state fiscal year the educational
12 requirements for an active statutory probate court judge;

13 (4) have served as an active judge or justice for at
14 least 72 months in a district, statutory probate, statutory county,
15 or appellate court; and

16 (5) have developed substantial experience in the
17 judge's or justice's area of specialty.

18 (u) In addition to the eligibility requirements under
19 Subsection (t), to be eligible for assignment under this section in
20 the judge's or justice's county of residence, a former or retired
21 judge of a statutory probate court or a former or retired justice of
22 an appellate court must certify to the presiding judge a
23 willingness not to:

24 (1) appear and plead as an attorney in any court in the
25 judge's county of residence for a period of two years; and

26 (2) accept appointment as a guardian ad litem,
27 guardian of the estate of an incapacitated person, or guardian of

1 the person of an incapacitated person in any court in the judge's or
2 justice's county of residence for a period of two years.

3 (w) A former or retired judge or justice who is assigned
4 under this section is not an employee of the county in which the
5 assigned court is located.

6 SECTION 4.02. Section 25.002201, Government Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 25.002201. ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGE ON RECUSAL OR
9 DISQUALIFICATION. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), not
10 later than the 15th day after the date an order of recusal or
11 disqualification of a statutory probate court judge is issued in a
12 case, the presiding judge shall assign a statutory probate court
13 judge or a former or retired judge of a statutory probate court or a
14 former or retired justice of an appellate court to hear the case if:

15 (1) the judge of the statutory probate court recused
16 himself or herself under Section 25.00255(g)(1)(A);

17 (2) the judge of the statutory probate court
18 disqualified himself or herself under Section 25.00255(g-1);

19 (3) the order was issued under Section
20 25.00255(i-3)(1); or

21 (4) the presiding judge receives notice and a request
22 for assignment from the clerk of the statutory probate court under
23 Section 25.00255(1).

24 (b) If the judge who is the subject of an order of recusal or
25 disqualification is the presiding judge of the statutory probate
26 courts, the chief justice of the supreme court shall assign a
27 statutory probate judge, or ~~or~~ a former or retired judge of a

1 statutory probate court, or a former or retired justice of an
2 appellate court to hear the case.

3 SECTION 4.03. Section 25.00255, Government Code, is amended
4 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (b) and (c) to
5 read as follows:

6 (a) Notwithstanding any conflicting provision in the Texas
7 Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules 18a and 18b, Texas Rules of Civil
8 Procedure, apply to the recusal and disqualification of a statutory
9 probate court judge except as otherwise provided by this section or
10 another provision of this subchapter. The presiding judge:

11 (1) has the authority and shall perform the functions
12 and duties of the presiding judge of the administrative judicial
13 region under the rules, including the duty to hear or rule on a
14 referred motion of recusal or disqualification or, subject to
15 Subdivisions (2) and (3), assign a judge to hear and rule on a
16 referred motion of recusal or disqualification;

17 (2) may assign a presiding judge of the administrative
18 judicial region to hear and rule on a referred motion of recusal or
19 disqualification only with the consent of the presiding judge of
20 the administrative judicial region;

21 (3) may not assign a judge of a statutory probate court
22 located in the same county as the statutory probate court served by
23 the judge who is the subject of the motion of recusal or
24 disqualification; and

25 (4) if the presiding judge is the subject of the motion
26 of recusal or disqualification, shall sign and file with the clerk
27 an order referring the motion to the chief justice of the supreme

1 court for assignment of a presiding judge of an administrative
2 judicial region, a statutory probate court judge, ~~[or]~~ a former or
3 retired judge of a statutory probate court, or a former or retired
4 justice of an appellate court to hear and rule on the motion,
5 subject to Subdivisions (2) and (3).

6 (b) The presiding judge may deny a motion of recusal or
7 disqualification that does not comply with Rule 18a, Texas Rules of
8 Civil Procedure, without a hearing. An order denying a motion under
9 this subsection must state the manner in which the motion fails to
10 comply with that rule.

11 (c) A motion of recusal or disqualification that does not
12 comply with Rule 18a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, is a motion or
13 disqualification for the purpose of determining whether a tertiary
14 recusal motion has been filed under Section 25.00256, regardless of
15 whether the motion was amended after filing.

16 SECTION 4.04. Section 74.003(e), Government Code, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 (e) A retired justice or judge assigned as provided by this
19 section is entitled to receive, pro rata for the time serving on
20 assignment, from money appropriated from the general revenue fund
21 for that purpose, an amount equal to the compensation received from
22 state and county sources by a justice of the court of appeals to
23 which assigned. A former justice or judge assigned as provided by
24 this section is entitled to receive, pro rata for the time serving
25 on assignment, from money appropriated from the general revenue
26 fund for that purpose, an amount equal to the compensation from the
27 state received by a justice of the court of appeals to which

1 assigned, and from county sources, an amount equal to the
2 compensation received from county sources by a justice of the court
3 of appeals to which assigned. For purposes of determining the
4 amount to be paid to a former or retired justice or judge under this
5 subsection, the compensation received from the state by a justice
6 of the court of appeals to which the retired justice or judge is
7 assigned is the amount equal to the state ~~[base]~~ salary paid in
8 accordance with Section 659.012(b) to a justice of that court of
9 appeals with comparable years of service as the retired justice or
10 judge on the retired justice's or judge's last day of service in
11 judicial office ~~[as set by the General Appropriations Act in~~
12 ~~accordance with Section 659.012(a)]~~.

13 SECTION 4.05. Section 74.046(b), Government Code, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (b) A presiding judge may appoint a judicial mentor or
16 arrange for additional administrative personnel to be assigned to a
17 court identified by the Office of Court Administration of the Texas
18 Judicial System as needing additional assistance under Section
19 72.024(b-1). A former or retired judge or justice assigned as a
20 judicial mentor under this subsection is entitled to the same
21 salary, compensation, and expenses under Section 74.061 that the
22 judge or justice would be entitled to if the judge or justice had
23 been assigned under this chapter to serve as the judge of a trial
24 court in the administrative judicial region of the court to which
25 the judge or justice is assigned as a judicial mentor.

26 SECTION 4.06. Section 74.059, Government Code, is amended
27 by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

1 (a-1) A judge assigned under the provisions of this chapter
2 to a court that sits in a county located in the Texas-Mexico border
3 region, as defined by Section 2056.002(e), may conduct a
4 proceeding, other than a trial, or perform a judicial action from
5 any location in this state using videoconference, teleconference,
6 or other available electronic means if authorized by the order of
7 assignment.

8 SECTION 4.07. Section 74.061, Government Code, is amended
9 by amending Subsections (h), (i), and (k) and adding Subsection
10 (k-1) to read as follows:

11 (h) Notwithstanding Subsection (c), the salary from the
12 state of a retired judge or justice assigned to a district court is
13 determined pro rata based on the sum of the regular judge's salary
14 from the county plus the amount of the state ~~[base]~~ salary paid in
15 accordance with Section 659.012(b) to a district judge with
16 comparable years of service as the retired judge or justice on the
17 retired judge's or justice's last day of service in judicial office
18 ~~[as set by the General Appropriations Act in accordance with~~
19 ~~Section 659.012(a)]~~.

20 (i) Notwithstanding Subsection (d), the salary from the
21 state of a former judge or justice assigned to a district court is
22 determined pro rata based on the amount of the state ~~[base]~~ salary
23 paid in accordance with Section 659.012(b) to a district judge with
24 comparable years of service as the retired judge or justice on the
25 retired judge's or justice's last day of service in judicial office
26 ~~[as set by the General Appropriations Act in accordance with~~
27 ~~Section 659.012(a)]~~.

1 (k) Except as provided by Subsection (k-1) and
2 notwithstanding [~~Notwithstanding~~] any other provision of law, a
3 former, retired, or active judge is not entitled to compensation
4 paid by the state when the judge sits as an assigned judge for a
5 statutory county court.

6 (k-1) Notwithstanding any other provision, a former or
7 retired judge or justice assigned under this chapter to a
8 constitutional county court in a county located in the Texas-Mexico
9 border region, as defined by Section 2056.002(e), is entitled to
10 compensation from the state in an amount equal to the maximum salary
11 a district judge may receive from county and state sources under
12 Section 659.012(a) if the presiding judge of the administrative
13 judicial region in which the county lies certifies that exigent
14 circumstances require the assignment.

15 SECTION 4.08. This article takes effect immediately if this
16 Act receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
17 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
18 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
19 effect, this article takes effect on the effective date of this Act.

20 ARTICLE 5. MASTERS, MAGISTRATES, REFEREES, AND ASSOCIATE JUDGES

21 SECTION 5.01. Article 2A.151, Code of Criminal Procedure,
22 as amended by S.B. 251, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular
23 Session, 2025, and by H.B. 1620, Acts of the 89th Legislature,
24 Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, is
25 reenacted and amended to read as follows:

26 Art. 2A.151. TYPES OF MAGISTRATES. The following officers
27 are magistrates for purposes of this code:

- 1 (1) a justice of the supreme court;
- 2 (2) a judge of the court of criminal appeals;
- 3 (3) a justice of the courts of appeals;
- 4 (4) a judge of a district court;
- 5 (5) an associate judge appointed by:
 - 6 (A) a judge of a district court or a statutory
 - 7 county court that gives preference to criminal cases in Jefferson
 - 8 County;
 - 9 (B) a judge of a district court or a statutory
 - 10 county court of Brazos County, Nueces County, or Williamson County;
 - 11 ~~[or]~~
 - 12 (C) a judge of a district court under Chapter
 - 13 54A, Government Code; or
 - 14 (D) a judge of a district court under Subchapter
 - 15 B, Chapter 54B, Government Code;
- 16 (6) a criminal magistrate appointed by:
 - 17 (A) the Bell County Commissioners Court;
 - 18 (B) the Brazoria County Commissioners Court; or
 - 19 (C) the Burnet County Commissioners Court;
- 20 (7) a criminal law hearing officer for:
 - 21 (A) Harris County appointed under Subchapter L,
 - 22 Chapter 54, Government Code; or
 - 23 (B) Cameron County appointed under Subchapter
 - 24 BB, Chapter 54, Government Code;
- 25 (8) a magistrate appointed:
 - 26 (A) by a judge of a district court of Bexar
 - 27 County, Dallas County, or Tarrant County that gives preference to

1 criminal cases;

2 (B) by a judge of a criminal district court of
3 Dallas County or Tarrant County;

4 (C) by a judge of a district court or statutory
5 county court of Denton or Grayson County;

6 (D) by a judge of a district court or statutory
7 county court that gives preference to criminal cases in Travis
8 County;

9 (E) by the El Paso Council of Judges;

10 (F) by the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court;

11 (G) by the Collin County Commissioners Court; or

12 (H) under Subchapter JJ, Chapter 54, Government
13 Code;

14 (9) a magistrate or associate judge appointed by a
15 judge of a district court of Lubbock County, Nolan County, or Webb
16 County;

17 (10) a county judge;

18 (11) a judge of:

19 (A) a statutory county court;

20 (B) a county criminal court; or

21 (C) a statutory probate court;

22 (12) an associate judge appointed by a judge of a
23 statutory probate court under Chapter 54A, Government Code;

24 (13) a justice of the peace; and

25 (14) a mayor or recorder of a municipality or a judge
26 of a municipal court.

27 SECTION 5.02. Section 54.1601(b), Government Code, as added

by S.B. 251, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025,
is amended to read as follows:

(b) The commissioners court shall establish the minimum
qualifications, salary, benefits, and other compensation of each
magistrate position and shall determine whether the position is
full-time or part-time. Notwithstanding any other provision of
this chapter, to be eligible for appointment under this subchapter,
a person must ~~[The qualifications must require the magistrate to:~~

~~[(1) have served as a justice of the peace or municipal
court judge, or~~

~~[(2)]~~ have been licensed to practice law in this state
and in good standing with the State Bar of Texas for at least two
years.

SECTION 5.03. Chapter 54B, Government Code, is amended by
adding Subchapter B to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER B. CRIMINAL ASSOCIATE JUDGES IN COKE, CONCHO, IRION,
RUNNELS, SCHLEICHER, STERLING, AND TOM GREEN COUNTIES

Sec. 54B.031. APPOINTMENT. (a) A judge of the 51st, 119th,
340th, or 391st district court may appoint a full-time or part-time
criminal associate judge to perform the duties authorized by this
subchapter if the commissioners court of the county in which the
court has jurisdiction has authorized the creation of an associate
judge position.

(b) If a court has jurisdiction in more than one county, an
associate judge appointed by that court may serve only in a county
in which the commissioners court has authorized the appointment.

(c) If more than one court in a county is subject to this

1 subchapter, the commissioners court may authorize the appointment
2 of an associate judge for each court or may authorize one or more
3 associate judges to share service with two or more courts.

4 (d) If an associate judge serves more than one court, the
5 associate judge's appointment must be made as established by local
6 rule, but in no event by less than a vote of two-thirds of the judges
7 under whom the associate judge serves.

8 Sec. 54B.032. APPLICABILITY. Except as provided by Section
9 54B.033, Subchapter A, Chapter 54A applies to a criminal associate
10 judge appointed under this subchapter.

11 Sec. 54B.033. PROCEEDINGS THAT MAY BE REFERRED. (a) A
12 judge may refer to a criminal associate judge any criminal case or
13 matter relating to a criminal case for proceedings involving:

14 (1) a negotiated plea of guilty or no contest and
15 sentencing before the court;

16 (2) a bond forfeiture, remittitur, and related
17 proceedings;

18 (3) a pretrial motion;

19 (4) a writ of habeas corpus;

20 (5) an examining trial;

21 (6) an occupational driver's license;

22 (7) a petition for an order of expunction under
23 Chapter 55A, Code of Criminal Procedure;

24 (8) an asset forfeiture hearing as provided by Chapter
25 59, Code of Criminal Procedure;

26 (9) a petition for an order of nondisclosure of
27 criminal history record information or an order of nondisclosure of

criminal history record information that does not require a petition provided by Subchapter E-1, Chapter 411;

(10) a motion to modify or revoke community supervision or to proceed with an adjudication of guilty;

(11) setting conditions, modifying, revoking, and surrendering of bonds, including surety bonds;

(12) specialty court proceedings;

(13) a waiver of extradition; and

(14) any other matter the judge considers necessary and proper.

(b) A judge may refer to a criminal associate judge a civil case arising out of Chapter 59, Code of Criminal Procedure, for any purpose authorized by that chapter, including issuing orders, accepting agreed judgments, enforcing judgments, and presiding over a case on the merits if a party has not requested a jury trial.

(c) A criminal associate judge may accept a plea of guilty from a defendant charged with misdemeanor, felony, or both misdemeanor and felony offenses.

(d) A criminal associate judge may select a jury. A criminal associate judge may not preside over a criminal trial on the merits, whether or not the trial is before a jury.

(e) A criminal associate judge may not hear a jury trial on the merits of a bond forfeiture.

(f) A judge of a designated juvenile court may refer to a criminal associate judge any proceeding over which a juvenile court has exclusive original jurisdiction under Title 3, Family Code, including any matter ancillary to the proceeding.

ARTICLE 6. JUVENILE BOARDS

SECTION 6.01. Section 152.0191(a), Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The juvenile board of Bee County is composed of the county judge, ~~and~~ the district judges in Bee County, and the judge of the 2nd Multicounty Court at Law.

SECTION 6.02. Section 152.0521(a), Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The Comal County Juvenile Board is composed of:

(1) the county judge;

(2) the local administrative statutory county court judge ~~[of each county court at law in the county];~~

(3) an elected judicial officer of Comal County appointed by the local administrative statutory county court judge;

(4) the local administrative district judge ~~[of the 22nd District Court];~~

(5) two elected judicial officers of Comal County appointed by the local administrative district judge ~~[(4) the judge of the 207th District Court]; and~~

~~[(5) the judge of the 433rd District Court,]~~

(6) ~~[the judge of the 274th District Court, and~~

~~[(7)]~~ the criminal district attorney of Comal County.

SECTION 6.03. Section 152.0971(a), Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The juvenile board of Grayson County is composed of the county judge and the district judges in Grayson County. The county judge may add a judge of a county court at law to the board.

SECTION 6.04. Section 152.1551(a), Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The juvenile board of Live Oak County is composed of the county judge, ~~and~~ the district judges in Live Oak County, and the judge of the 2nd Multicounty Court at Law.

SECTION 6.05. Section 152.1621(a), Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The juvenile board of McMullen County is composed of the county judge, ~~and~~ the district judges in McMullen County, and the judge of the 2nd Multicounty Court at Law.

ARTICLE 7. COURT ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 7.01. Articles 45A.302(b), (c), and (d), Code of Criminal Procedure, are amended to read as follows:

(b) In issuing the order of deferral, the judge may impose a special expense fee ~~[fine]~~ on the defendant in an amount not to exceed the amount of the fine that could be imposed on the defendant as punishment for the offense.

(c) The fee ~~[fine]~~ described by Subsection (b) may be collected at any time before the date on which the period of deferral ends. A judge who orders the collection of the fee ~~[fine]~~ must require that the amount of the fee ~~[fine]~~ be credited toward the payment of the amount of any fine imposed by the judge as punishment for the offense.

(d) The judge may elect not to impose the special expense fee ~~[fine]~~ for good cause shown by the defendant.

SECTION 7.02. Subchapter A, Chapter 102, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 102.0061 to read as

1 follows:

2 Art. 102.0061. FEES IN EXPUNCTION PROCEEDINGS. (a) In
3 addition to any other fees required by other law and except as
4 provided by Subsections (c) and (d), a petitioner seeking
5 expunction of a criminal record in a district court shall pay the
6 fee charged for filing an ex parte petition in a civil action in
7 district court.

8 (b) In addition to any other fees required by other law and
9 except as provided by Subsection (c), a petitioner seeking
10 expunction of a criminal record in a justice court or a municipal
11 court of record under Chapter 55A shall pay a fee of \$100 for filing
12 an ex parte petition for expunction to defray the cost of notifying
13 state agencies of orders of expunction under that chapter.

14 (c) The fee under Subsection (a) or the fee under Subsection
15 (b), as applicable, shall be waived if:

16 (1) the petitioner seeks expunction of a criminal
17 record that relates to an arrest for an offense of which the person
18 was acquitted, other than an acquittal for an offense described by
19 Article 55A.151; and

20 (2) the petition for expunction is filed not later
21 than the 30th day after the date of the acquittal.

22 (d) The fee under Subsection (a) shall be waived if the
23 petitioner is entitled to expunction:

24 (1) under Article 55A.053(a)(2)(A) after successful
25 completion of a veterans treatment court program created under
26 Chapter 124, Government Code, or former law; or

27 (2) under Article 55A.053(a)(2)(B) after successful

1 completion of a mental health court program created under Chapter
2 125, Government Code, or former law.

3 (e) A court that grants a petition for expunction of a
4 criminal record may order the fee, or portion of the fee, required
5 to be paid under Subsection (a) to be returned to the petitioner.

6 SECTION 7.03. Article 102.017, Code of Criminal Procedure,
7 is amended by adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

8 (e-1) In administering or directing funds under Subsection
9 (e), a commissioners court shall consider the recommendations
10 provided by a court security committee under Section 74.0922,
11 Government Code, and the governing body of a municipality shall
12 consider the recommendations provided by a court security committee
13 under Sections 29.014(d) and 30.00007(c), Government Code.

14 SECTION 7.04. (a) The heading to Section 22.110,
15 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

16 Sec. 22.110. JUDICIAL INSTRUCTION RELATED TO FAMILY
17 VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS, AND CHILD AND
18 ELDER ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

19 (b) Section 22.110, Government Code, is amended by amending
20 Subsections (a), (b), and (d) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as
21 follows:

22 (a) The court of criminal appeals shall assure that judicial
23 training related to the problems of family violence, sexual
24 assault, trafficking of persons, ~~[and]~~ child abuse and neglect, and
25 elder abuse and neglect is provided.

26 (b) The court of criminal appeals shall adopt the rules
27 necessary to accomplish the purposes of this section. The rules

1 must require:

2 (1) each district judge, judge of a statutory county
3 court, associate judge appointed under Chapter 54A of this code or
4 Chapter 201, Family Code, master, referee, and magistrate within
5 the judge's first term of office or the judicial officer's first
6 four years of service to complete and provide certification of
7 completion of 12 hours of training that include at least:

8 (A) four hours dedicated to issues related to
9 trafficking of persons, ~~[and]~~ child abuse and neglect, and elder
10 abuse and neglect that cover at least two of the topics described in
11 Subsections (d)(8) through (12) and (d)(14) ~~[(d)(8)-(12)]~~;

12 (B) six hours dedicated to the training described
13 by Subsections (d)(5), (6), and (7); and

14 (C) one hour dedicated to the training described
15 by Subsection (d)(13);

16 (2) each judge and judicial officer during each
17 additional term in office or four years of service to complete and
18 provide certification of completion of an additional five hours of
19 training that include at least:

20 (A) two hours dedicated to the training described
21 by Subsections (d)(11) and (12); and

22 (B) one hour dedicated to the training described
23 by Subsection (d)(13); and

24 (3) each judge of a court with primary responsibility
25 for family law or family violence matters to complete and provide
26 certification of completion of an additional hour of training
27 described by Subsection (d)(13) every two years.

1 (b-1) The rules adopted under Subsection (b) must exempt
2 from the training requirements of this section each judge or
3 judicial officer, including an associate judge, who files an
4 affidavit stating the judge or judicial officer does not hear cases
5 involving family violence, sexual assault, trafficking of persons,
6 child abuse and neglect, or elder abuse and neglect.

7 (d) The instruction must include information about:

8 (1) statutory and case law relating to videotaping a
9 child's testimony and relating to competency of children to
10 testify;

11 (2) methods for eliminating the trauma to the child
12 caused by the court process;

13 (3) case law, statutory law, and procedural rules
14 relating to family violence, sexual assault, trafficking of
15 persons, and child abuse and neglect;

16 (4) methods for providing protection for victims of
17 family violence, sexual assault, trafficking of persons, and child
18 abuse and neglect;

19 (5) available community and state resources for
20 counseling and other aid to victims and to offenders;

21 (6) gender bias in the judicial process;

22 (7) dynamics and effects of being a victim of sexual
23 assault, trafficking of persons, or child abuse and neglect;

24 (8) dynamics of sexual abuse of children, including
25 child abuse accommodation syndrome and grooming;

26 (9) impact of substance abuse on an unborn child and on
27 a person's ability to care for a child;

(10) issues of attachment and bonding between children and caregivers;

(11) issues of child development that pertain to trafficking of persons and child abuse and neglect;

(12) medical findings regarding physical abuse, sexual abuse, trafficking of persons, and child abuse and neglect; ~~and~~

(13) dynamics of family violence; and

(14) elder abuse and neglect.

(c) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals shall adopt the rules necessary to implement Section 22.110, Government Code, as amended by this article.

(d) Section 22.110, Government Code, as amended by this article, applies to all judges, masters, referees, and magistrates elected, appointed, or holding office on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 7.05. Section 22.216(n-2), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(n-2) Notwithstanding Subsection (n-1), the Court of Appeals for the Fifteenth Court of Appeals District consists of a chief justice and of two justices holding places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2 for the first three years following the court's creation. Place 4 shall be created and the initial vacancy in that place shall be filled for the fourth year following the court's creation. Place 5 shall be created and the initial vacancy in that place shall be filled for the fifth year

following the court's creation. This subsection expires September 1, 2029 [2027].

SECTION 7.06. Section 25A.003(d), Government Code, as amended by H.B. 40, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The Second Business Court Division is composed of the counties composing the Second Administrative Judicial Region under Section 74.042(c), excluding Montgomery County and Bastrop County, subject to funding through legislative appropriations.

SECTION 7.07. Section 25A.003(e), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) The Third Business Court Division is composed of the counties composing the Third Administrative Judicial Region under Section 74.042(d) and Bastrop County.

SECTION 7.08. Section 51.303, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b) and (f) and adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(b) The clerk of a district court shall:

(1) record the acts and proceedings of the court;

(2) enter all judgments of the court under the direction of the judge; ~~and~~

(3) record all executions issued and the returns on the executions; and

(4) accept an application for a protective order filed under Chapter 82, Family Code.

(d) Paper records must include a reference opposite each

1 name to the minutes on which is entered the judgment in the case.

2 (f) A case with an electronic record must be searchable by
3 each party's full name, the case number, and the date on which the
4 record was made [~~In addition to the other powers and duties of this~~
5 ~~section, a district clerk shall accept applications for protective~~
6 ~~orders under Chapter 71, Family Code~~].

7 SECTION 7.09. Section 51.903(d), Government Code, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (d) The district clerk may not collect a filing fee under
10 Section 12.005, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, for a filing [~~a~~
11 ~~motion~~] under this section.

12 SECTION 7.10. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 71, Government
13 Code, is amended by adding Section 71.0354 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 71.0354. PROSECUTING ATTORNEY INFORMATION. (a) In
15 this section, "prosecuting attorney" means a county attorney,
16 district attorney, or criminal district attorney representing this
17 state in criminal matters before the district or other courts of the
18 county.

19 (b) Each prosecuting attorney shall report in the form and
20 manner prescribed by the council information on:

21 (1) the categories of criminal offenses prosecuted by
22 the prosecuting attorney and the number of criminal cases in each
23 category;

24 (2) the number of personnel employed by the
25 prosecuting attorney and whether that number is sufficient to
26 support the prosecutor's caseload;

27 (3) the number of times a defendant was released as

1 provided by Article 17.151, Code of Criminal Procedure; and

2 (4) the number of electronic notices submitted by the
3 prosecuting attorney to a court as required by Article
4 17.027(a)(2), Code of Criminal Procedure.

5 (c) In prescribing the information to be submitted and form
6 and manner of submission of the information under Subsection (b),
7 the council shall consult with:

8 (1) the Texas District and County Attorneys
9 Association; and

10 (2) other interested persons.

11 (b) Not later than September 1, 2026, the Texas Judicial
12 Council shall prescribe the information, and form and manner of
13 submission, a prosecuting attorney in this state is required to
14 report under Section 71.0354, Government Code, as added by this
15 article.

16 SECTION 7.11. Section 72.015(c), Government Code, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 (c) The judicial security division shall:

19 (1) serve as a central resource for information on
20 local and national best practices for court security and the safety
21 of court personnel;

22 (2) provide an expert opinion on the technical aspects
23 of court security; ~~and~~

24 (3) keep abreast of and provide training on recent
25 court security improvements; and

26 (4) develop a model court emergency management plan as
27 a resource for court security committees.

SECTION 7.12. Section 72.016, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 72.016. NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR JUDICIAL PRIVACY. The director shall develop a procedure to regularly notify county registrars, the Department of Public Safety, the Texas Ethics Commission, and any other state or local government agency the office determines should be notified of the judges, judges' spouses, employees of the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities administratively attached to the office, employees and commissioners of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, and related family members whose personal information must be kept from public records, as provided under Sections 552.117 and 572.035 of this code, Sections 13.0021 and 15.0215, Election Code, Section 25.025, Tax Code, and Section 521.121, Transportation Code.

SECTION 7.13. Section 72.083, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), if the director determines a performance measure listed in Subsection (b) does not accurately reflect a court's performance in probate and mental health matters, the director may develop an alternative performance measure to assess the efficient and timely adjudication of those matters and include the alternative performance measure in the annual report required under Subsection (b).

SECTION 7.14. Section 74.024(d), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) Any rules adopted under this section remain in effect

1 unless and until disapproved by the legislature. The clerk of the
2 supreme court shall file with the secretary of state the rules or
3 any amendments to the rules adopted by the supreme court under this
4 section and shall provide ~~[mail]~~ a copy of the rules and any
5 amendments to each registered member of the State Bar not later than
6 the 120th day before the date on which they become effective. The
7 supreme court shall allow a period of 60 days for review and comment
8 on the rules and any amendments. The clerk of the supreme court
9 shall report the rules or amendments to the rules to the next
10 regular session of the legislature by providing ~~[mailing]~~ a copy of
11 the rules or amendments to the rules to each elected member of the
12 legislature on or before December 1 immediately preceding the
13 session.

14 SECTION 7.15. Section 74.091, Government Code, is amended
15 by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as
16 follows:

17 (b) In a county with two or more district courts the judges
18 of those courts shall elect a district judge as local
19 administrative district judge:

20 (1) for a term of ~~[not more than]~~ two years; or
21 (2) if the district judge's term ends before the second
22 anniversary of the date the district judge is elected as local
23 administrative judge, for the remainder of the district judge's
24 term.

25 (b-1) The local administrative district judge may not be
26 elected on the basis of rotation or seniority.

27 SECTION 7.16. Section 74.092, Government Code, as amended

1 by S.B. 664, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025,
2 and effective September 1, 2025, is amended by amending Subsection
3 (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

4 (a) A local administrative judge, for the courts for which
5 the judge serves as local administrative judge, shall:

6 (1) implement and execute the local rules of
7 administration, including the assignment, docketing, transfer, and
8 hearing of cases;

9 (2) appoint any special or standing committees
10 necessary or desirable for court management and administration;

11 (3) promulgate local rules of administration if the
12 other judges do not act by a majority vote;

13 (4) recommend to the regional presiding judge any
14 needs for assignment from outside the county to dispose of court
15 caseloads;

16 (5) supervise the expeditious movement of court
17 caseloads, subject to local, regional, and state rules of
18 administration;

19 (6) provide the supreme court and the office of court
20 administration requested statistical and management information;

21 (7) set the hours and places for holding court in the
22 county;

23 (8) supervise the employment and performance of
24 nonjudicial personnel;

25 (8-a) supervise the performance of each master,
26 magistrate, referee, associate judge, or hearing officer who was
27 appointed under Chapter 54 to serve a court for which the judge

1 serves as a local administrative judge and whose duties include
2 duties under Article 15.17, Code of Criminal Procedure;

3 (9) supervise the budget and fiscal matters of the
4 local courts, subject to local rules of administration;

5 (10) coordinate and cooperate with any other local
6 administrative judge in the district in the assignment of cases in
7 the courts' concurrent jurisdiction for the efficient operation of
8 the court system and the effective administration of justice;

9 (11) if requested by the courts the judge serves,
10 establish and maintain the lists required by Section 37.003 and
11 ensure appointments are made from the lists in accordance with
12 Section 37.004;

13 (12) perform other duties as may be directed by the
14 chief justice or a regional presiding judge; and

15 (13) establish a court security committee to adopt
16 security policies and procedures for the trial courts served by the
17 local administrative district judge, including by adopting a court
18 emergency management plan, that is composed of:

19 (A) the local administrative district judge, or
20 the judge's designee, who serves as presiding officer of the
21 committee;

22 (B) a representative of the sheriff's office;

23 (C) a representative of a constable's office;

24 (D) a representative of the county commissioners
25 court;

26 (E) ~~[(D)]~~ one judge of each type of court in the
27 county, including a justice of the peace and excluding the judge of

1 ~~[other than]~~ a municipal court or a municipal court of record;

2 (F) ~~[(F)]~~ a representative of any county
3 attorney's office, district attorney's office, or criminal district
4 attorney's office that serves in the applicable courts; and

5 (G) ~~[(F)]~~ any other person the committee
6 determines necessary to assist the committee.

7 (c) Notwithstanding Section 551.001 or 552.003, a court
8 security committee established under this section is not a
9 governmental body for the purposes of Chapter 551 or 552.

10 SECTION 7.17. Section 74.092(b), Government Code, is
11 redesignated as Section 74.0922, Government Code, and amended to
12 read as follows:

13 Sec. 74.0922. DUTIES OF COURT SECURITY COMMITTEE. ~~[(b)]~~ A
14 court security committee established under Section 74.092(a)(13)
15 shall meet at least once annually and shall develop and submit
16 recommendations ~~[may recommend]~~ to the county commissioners court
17 on the uses of resources and expenditures of money for courthouse
18 security, but may not direct the assignment of those resources or
19 the expenditure of those funds.

20 SECTION 7.18. Chapter 74, Government Code, is amended by
21 adding Subchapter D-1 to read as follows:

22 SUBCHAPTER D-1. COURT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

23 Sec. 74.0981. COURT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. The Office of
24 Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System shall hold an
25 annual leadership conference to provide information to presiding
26 judges of administrative regions, local administrative judges, and
27 court administrators related to:

1 (1) court budgets and operational funding;

2 (2) court activity statistics and case-level
3 information on the amount and character of the business transacted
4 by the state trial courts;

5 (3) the duties of a local administrative judge; and

6 (4) other matters related to court administration.

7 Sec. 74.0982. REIMBURSEMENT. The Office of Court
8 Administration of the Texas Judicial System may reimburse a
9 presiding judge of an administrative region, a local administrative
10 judge, or a court administrator for the expense of attending the
11 leadership conference described by Section 74.0981 to the extent
12 money is appropriated to the office for that purpose.

13 SECTION 7.19. Section 75.001(d), Government Code, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (d) A retiree who makes an election under this section shall
16 be:

17 (1) designated a senior judge; and

18 (2) considered a judge of a court of this state for the
19 purpose of appointment to a judicial branch board, commission, or
20 council.

21 SECTION 7.20. Section 121.002(c), Government Code, is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, a specialty court
24 program may not operate until the judge, magistrate, or
25 coordinator:

26 (1) provides to the Office of Court Administration of
27 the Texas Judicial System:

- 1 (A) written notice of the program;
- 2 (B) any resolution or other official declaration
- 3 under which the program was established; and
- 4 (C) a copy of the program policy manual,
- 5 participant handbook, or other adopted documentation describing
- 6 the operational plan of [~~applicable strategic plan that~~
- 7 ~~incorporates duties related to supervision that will be required~~
- 8 ~~under~~] the program; and

9 (2) receives from the office written verification of

10 the program's compliance with Subdivision (1).

11 SECTION 7.21. Section 118.011(a), Local Government Code, as

12 amended by S.B. 1547, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular

13 Session, 2025, is amended to read as follows:

14 (a) A county clerk shall collect the following fees for

15 services rendered to any person:

- 16 (1) Personal Property Records Filing (Sec. 118.012):
- 17 (A) for the first page \$ 5.00;
- 18 (B) for each additional page or part of a page on
- 19 which there are visible marks of any kind \$ 4.00;
- 20 (2) Real Property Records Filing (Sec. 118.013):
- 21 (A) for the first page \$ 5.00;
- 22 (B) for each additional page or part of a page on
- 23 which there are visible marks of any kind \$ 4.00;
- 24 (C) for all or part of each 8-1/2" X 14"
- 25 attachment or rider \$ 4.00;
- 26 (D) for each name in excess of five names that
- 27 has to be indexed in all records in which the document must be

1 indexed \$ 0.25;

2 (3) Certified Papers (Sec. 118.014):

3 (A) for the clerk's certificate \$ 5.00;

4 (B) printed on paper, plus a fee for each page or

5 part of a page \$ 1.00;

6 (C) that is a paper document converted to

7 electronic format, for each page or part of a page \$1;

8 (D) that is an electronic copy of an electronic

9 document:

10 (i) for each document up to 10 pages in

11 length \$1;

12 (ii) for each page or part of a page of a

13 document over 10 pages \$0.10;

14 (4) Noncertified Papers (Sec. 118.0145):

15 (A) printed on paper, for each page or part of a

16 page \$ 1.00;

17 (B) that is a paper document converted to

18 electronic format, for each page or part of a page \$1;

19 (C) that is an electronic copy of an electronic

20 document, except for real property records:

21 (i) for each document up to 10 pages in

22 length \$1;

23 (ii) for each page or part of a page of a

24 document over 10 pages \$0.10;

25 (5) Birth or Death Certificate (Sec. 118.015) . . same

26 as state registrar;

27 (6) Bond Approval (Sec. 118.016) \$ 5.00 [~~3.00~~];

- (7) Marriage License (Sec. 118.018) \$60.00;
- (8) Declaration of Informal Marriage (Sec. 118.019) \$25.00;
- (9) Brand Registration (Sec. 118.020) \$ 5.00;
- (10) Oath Administration (Sec. 118.021) \$ 1.00.

SECTION 7.22. Section 135.101(a), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person shall pay in a district court, statutory county court, or county court in addition to all other fees and court costs a local consolidated filing fee of:

- (1) \$213 on filing any civil case except a probate, guardianship, or mental health case; and
- (2) \$35 on any action other than an original action for a case subject to Subdivision (1), including ~~an appeal and~~ any counterclaim, cross-action, intervention, contempt action, interpleader, motion for new trial, motion to reinstate, or third-party action.

SECTION 7.23. (a) In this section:

- (1) "Digital court reporting" means the act of making a verbatim record of an oral court proceeding, deposition, or proceeding before a grand jury, referee, or court commissioner for use in litigation in the courts of this state through the use of digital technology, electronic recording equipment, or other recording and transcribing technology.
- (2) "Office" means the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System.

(b) The office shall conduct a study on digital court

reporting, including:

(1) an evaluation of the current use of digital court reporting in the courts of this state, including the cost, access, accuracy, and effectiveness of digital court reporting;

(2) an analysis of the use of digital court reporting in other states and jurisdictions; and

(3) recommendations on any necessary changes to statutes, rules, regulations, or standards regarding the use of digital court reporting in this state.

(c) Not later than October 1, 2026, the office shall submit a report on the study conducted under this section to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and appropriate standing committees of the legislature.

(d) This section expires September 1, 2027.

ARTICLE 8. COPIES CERTIFIED BY CLERKS

SECTION 8.01. Subchapter D, Chapter 51, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 51.3033 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.3033. CERTIFIED COPIES. A certified copy made of an original document on file in a district clerk's office must include:

(1) on each page of the copy:

(A) the clerk's signature or initials;

(B) the district court seal; or

(C) a unique document certification and paginated page number; and

(2) on the final page of the copy:

(A) the clerk's attestation certifying that the

1 copy is a true and correct copy of the original document filed in
2 the clerk's office;

3 (B) the number of pages copied; and

4 (C) the date the copy was issued.

5 SECTION 8.02. Subchapter F, Chapter 51, Government Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 51.503 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.503. CERTIFIED COPIES. A certified copy made of an
8 original document on file in a joint clerk's office must include:

9 (1) on each page of the copy:

10 (A) the clerk's signature or initials;

11 (B) the applicable court's seal; or

12 (C) a unique document certification and
13 paginated page number; and

14 (2) on the final page of the copy:

15 (A) the clerk's attestation certifying that the
16 copy is a true and correct copy of the original document filed in
17 the clerk's office;

18 (B) the number of pages copied; and

19 (C) the date the copy was issued.

20 SECTION 8.03. Chapter 191, Local Government Code, is
21 amended by adding Section 191.0041 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 191.0041. CERTIFIED COPIES. A certified copy made of
23 an original document on file in a county clerk's office must
24 include:

25 (1) on each page of the copy:

26 (A) either:

27 (i) the clerk's signature or initials; or

1 (ii) a unique document certification and
2 paginated page number; and

3 (B) either:

4 (i) the commissioners court seal on a copy
5 of a document that is not a court document; or

6 (ii) the court seal on a copy of a court
7 document; and

8 (2) on the final page of the copy:

9 (A) the clerk's attestation certifying that the
10 copy is a true and correct copy of the original document filed in
11 the clerk's office;

12 (B) the number of pages copied; and

13 (C) the date the copy was issued.

14 ARTICLE 9. CIVIL, CRIMINAL, AND APPELLATE COURT PROCEDURES

15 SECTION 9.01. Section 16.073, Civil Practice and Remedies
16 Code, is amended to read as follows:

17 Sec. 16.073. APPLICABILITY OF LIMITATIONS PERIODS TO
18 ARBITRATION. A claim that is sought to be arbitrated is subject to
19 the same limitations period that would apply to the claim if the
20 claim had been brought in court. Commencing an action asserting a
21 claim by filing suit in a court of competent jurisdiction will toll
22 the applicable limitations period for arbitration of the same
23 claim. [(a) A party may not assert a claim in an arbitration
24 proceeding if the party could not bring suit for the claim in court
25 due to the expiration of the applicable limitations period.

26 ~~[(b) A party may assert a claim in an arbitration proceeding~~
27 ~~after expiration of the applicable limitations period if:~~

1 ~~[(1) the party brought suit for the claim in court~~
2 ~~before the expiration of the applicable limitations period; and~~

3 ~~[(2) the parties to the claim agreed to arbitrate the~~
4 ~~claim or a court ordered the parties to arbitrate the claim.]]~~

5 SECTION 9.02. Section 30.015(a), Civil Practice and
6 Remedies Code, as amended by H.B. 40, Acts of the 89th Legislature,
7 Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 (a) In a civil action filed in a district court, a county
10 court, a statutory county court, a statutory probate court, or the
11 business court, each party or the party's attorney must provide the
12 clerk of the court with written notice of the party's name, the
13 party's ~~[and]~~ current residence or business address, and for a
14 party who is an individual:

15 (1) the last three digits of the party's social
16 security number; or

17 (2) the last three digits of the party's Texas driver's
18 license.

19 SECTION 9.03. Section 30.015(b), Civil Practice and
20 Remedies Code, is amended to read as follows:

21 (b) Unless the party is the defendant in a tax suit, the
22 ~~[The]~~ notice required by Subsection (a) may not be required from any
23 party or party's attorney if the ~~[such]~~ party has not appeared or
24 answered in the civil action.

25 SECTION 9.04. (a) Articles 43.09(a) and (k), Code of
26 Criminal Procedure, are amended to read as follows:

27 (a) When a defendant is convicted of a misdemeanor and the

1 defendant's punishment is assessed at a pecuniary fine or is
2 confined in a jail after conviction of a felony for which a fine is
3 imposed, if the defendant is unable to pay the fine and costs
4 adjudged against the defendant, the defendant may for such time as
5 will satisfy the judgment be put to work in the county jail
6 industries program, in the workhouse, or on the county farm, or
7 public improvements and maintenance projects of the county or a
8 political subdivision located in whole or in part in the county, as
9 provided in Article 43.10; or if there is no such county jail
10 industries program, workhouse, farm, or improvements and
11 maintenance projects, the defendant shall be confined in jail for a
12 sufficient length of time to discharge the full amount of fine and
13 costs adjudged against the defendant; rating such confinement at
14 \$150 [~~\$100~~] for each day and rating such labor at \$150 [~~\$100~~] for
15 each day; provided, however, that the defendant may pay the
16 pecuniary fine assessed against the defendant at any time while the
17 defendant is serving at work in the county jail industries program,
18 in the workhouse, or on the county farm, or on the public
19 improvements and maintenance projects of the county or a political
20 subdivision located in whole or in part in the county, or while the
21 defendant is serving the defendant's jail sentence, and in such
22 instances the defendant is entitled to the credit earned under this
23 subsection during the time that the defendant has served and the
24 defendant shall only be required to pay the balance of the pecuniary
25 fine assessed against the defendant. A defendant who performs
26 labor under this article during a day in which the defendant is
27 confined is entitled to both the credit for confinement and the

1 credit for labor provided by this article.

2 (k) A defendant is considered to have discharged \$150 [~~\$100~~]
3 of fines or costs for each eight hours of community service
4 performed under Subsection (f) of this article.

5 (b) Article 43.09(a), Code of Criminal Procedure, as
6 amended by this article, applies to a defendant who is confined or
7 performs labor to discharge fines or costs on or after the effective
8 date of this Act, regardless of whether the offense for which the
9 fines or costs were imposed occurred before, on, or after that date.

10 SECTION 9.05. (a) Article 45A.251(e), Code of Criminal
11 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

12 (e) In addition to credit under Subsection (d), in imposing
13 a fine and costs in a case involving a misdemeanor punishable by
14 fine only, the justice or judge shall credit the defendant for any
15 period the defendant was confined in jail or prison while awaiting
16 trial or serving a sentence for another offense if that confinement
17 occurred after the commission of the misdemeanor. The credit under
18 this subsection shall be applied to the amount of the fine and costs
19 at the rate of not less than \$150 for each day of confinement.

20 (b) Article 45A.251(e), Code of Criminal Procedure, as
21 amended by this article, applies to a defendant who is sentenced for
22 an offense on or after the effective date of this Act, regardless of
23 whether the offense was committed before, on, or after that date.

24 SECTION 9.06. Article 45A.254(e), Code of Criminal
25 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

26 (e) A defendant is considered to have discharged not less
27 than \$150 [~~\$100~~] of fines or costs for each eight hours of community

1 service performed under this article.

2 SECTION 9.07. Article 45A.459(i), Code of Criminal
3 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

4 (i) A defendant is considered to have discharged not less
5 than \$150 [~~\$100~~] of fines or costs for each eight hours of community
6 service performed under this article.

7 SECTION 9.08. Article 45A.460(i), Code of Criminal
8 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

9 (i) A defendant is considered to have discharged not less
10 than \$150 [~~\$100~~] of fines or costs for each eight hours of community
11 service performed under this article.

12 SECTION 9.09. Section 233.006(b), Election Code, is amended
13 to read as follows:

14 (b) Except as provided by Section 30.023, Civil Practice and
15 Remedies Code [~~233.014~~], the contestant must file the petition not
16 later than the later of the 30th day after the date the election
17 records are publicly available under Section 1.012 or the official
18 result of the contested election is determined.

19 SECTION 9.10. (a) Section 233.014, Election Code, is
20 transferred to Chapter 30, Civil Practice and Remedies Code,
21 redesignated as Section 30.023, Civil Practice and Remedies Code,
22 and amended to read as follows:

23 Sec. 30.023 [~~233.014~~]. SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR CONTEST OF
24 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION. (a) This section applies only
25 to a contest of an election on a proposed constitutional amendment.

26 (b) The contestant's petition must be filed and service of
27 citation on the secretary of state must be obtained before the final

1 official canvass is completed.

2 (c) The filing of an election contest does not suspend
3 implementation of a constitutional amendment approved by the
4 majority of the votes cast [~~The declaration of the official result~~
5 ~~of a contested election may not be made until the contest is finally~~
6 ~~determined. The secretary of state shall tabulate the county~~
7 ~~returns and the governor shall announce the final vote count, as~~
8 ~~ascertained from the returns, in a written document. The document~~
9 ~~announcing the final vote count must state that a contest of the~~
10 ~~election has been filed and that the declaration of the official~~
11 ~~result will not be made until the contest is finally determined]~~.

12 (c-1) The trial court must ensure a written ruling on a
13 pretrial motion before the court is entered not later than the 30th
14 day after the date the motion is filed.

15 (d) The trial date may not be earlier than the 45th day after
16 the date of the contested election except [~~nor later than the 180th~~
17 ~~day after the date of the contested election. The trial date may be~~
18 ~~earlier than the 45th day after the date of the contested election]~~
19 at the request of the contestant. The trial court must ensure the
20 judgment of the court is not filed later than the 180th day after
21 the date of the contested election.

22 (e) If an amended petition alleging additional grounds of
23 contest is filed, the contest may not be called for trial earlier
24 than the 20th day after the date the amended petition is filed
25 unless the secretary of state agrees to calling the contest for
26 trial at an earlier date.

27 (f) The court shall include in its judgment in a contest an

1 order directing the governor to declare the ~~[official result of the~~
2 ~~election or to declare the]~~ election valid or void, as appropriate,
3 not later than the 10th day after the date the judgment becomes
4 final.

5 (g) Any question relating to the validity or outcome of a
6 constitutional amendment election may be raised in an election
7 contest. A contest is the exclusive method for adjudicating such
8 questions.

9 (h) If a contestant files an appeal of the contest, the
10 appellate court must ensure that the action is brought to final
11 disposition not later than the 60th ~~[180th]~~ day after the date the
12 judgment becomes final.

13 (b) Section 233.014, Election Code, as redesignated and
14 amended by this article, applies to a contest of a constitutional
15 amendment election filed on or after the effective date of this Act.
16 A contest of a constitutional amendment election filed before that
17 date is governed by the law in effect on the date that the suit is
18 filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

19 SECTION 9.11. Section 6.4035(e), Family Code, is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (e) The party executing the waiver may ~~[not]~~ sign the waiver
22 using a digitized signature.

23 SECTION 9.12. (a) Section 22.220, Government Code, is
24 amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

25 (e) A party may not file a notice of appeal in a civil case
26 requesting assignment of the appeal to the Court of Appeals for the
27 Fifteenth Court of Appeals District unless the notice includes a

1 matter arising out of or related to the case that is within the
2 court's exclusive intermediate appellate jurisdiction.

3 (b) Section 22.220(e), Government Code, as added by this
4 article, applies only to a notice of appeal filed on or after the
5 effective date of this Act. A notice of appeal filed before that
6 date is governed by the law in effect on the date the notice was
7 filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

8 SECTION 9.13. Section 406.026, Government Code, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 406.026. ELECTRONIC NOTARIZATION. In a proceeding
11 filed under Title 1 or 5, Family Code, if a signature is required to
12 be notarized, acknowledged, verified, or made under oath, the
13 requirement may be satisfied if the electronic signature of the
14 person authorized to perform that act, together with all other
15 information required to be included by other applicable law, is
16 attached to or logically associated with the signature required to
17 be notarized, acknowledged, verified, or made under oath.

18 SECTION 9.14. Section 21.049, Property Code, is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 Sec. 21.049. NOTICE OF DECISION OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS.
21 The judge of a court hearing a proceeding under this chapter shall
22 inform the clerk of the court as to a decision by the special
23 commissioners on the day the decision is filed or on the next
24 working day after the day the decision is filed. Not later than the
25 next working day after the day the decision is filed, the clerk
26 shall send notice of the decision by a delivery method described
27 under Rule 21a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure [~~certified or~~

1 ~~registered United States mail, return receipt requested~~], to the
2 parties in the proceeding, or to their attorneys of record, at their
3 addresses of record.

4 SECTION 9.15. Section 34.03(a), Tax Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (a) The clerk of the court shall:

7 (1) if the amount of excess proceeds is more than \$25,
8 before the 31st day after the date the excess proceeds are received
9 by the clerk, send by a delivery method described by Rule 21a, Texas
10 Rules of Civil Procedure [~~certified mail, return receipt~~
11 ~~requested~~], a written notice to the former owner of the property, at
12 the former owner's last known address according to the records of
13 the court or any other source reasonably available to the court,
14 that:

15 (A) states the amount of the excess proceeds;

16 (B) informs the former owner of that owner's
17 rights to claim the excess proceeds under Section 34.04; and

18 (C) includes a copy or the complete text of this
19 section and Section 34.04;

20 (2) regardless of the amount, keep the excess proceeds
21 paid into court as provided by Section 34.02(d) for a period of two
22 years after the date of the sale unless otherwise ordered by the
23 court; and

24 (3) regardless of the amount, send to the attorney
25 general notice of the deposit and amount of excess proceeds if the
26 attorney general or a state agency represented by the attorney
27 general is named as an in rem defendant in the underlying suit for

1 seizure of the property or foreclosure of a tax lien on the
2 property.

3 SECTION 9.16. Section 521.243(a), Transportation Code, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 (a) Unless the petition is dismissed under Section
6 521.2421(f), the clerk of the court shall send electronically or by
7 a delivery method described by Rule 21a, Texas Rules of Civil
8 Procedure, [by certified mail] to the attorney representing the
9 state a copy of the petition and notice of the hearing if the
10 petitioner's license was suspended, revoked, or canceled following
11 a conviction for:

12 (1) an offense under Section 19.05 or Sections
13 49.04-49.08, Penal Code; or

14 (2) an offense to which Section 521.342 applies.

15 SECTION 9.17. The changes in law made by this article to
16 Articles 43.09(k), 45A.254(e), 45A.459(i), and 45A.460(i), Code of
17 Criminal Procedure, apply to a defendant who performs community
18 service to discharge fines or costs on or after the effective date
19 of this Act, regardless of whether the offense for which the fines
20 or costs were imposed occurred before, on, or after that date.

21 SECTION 9.18. Section 6.4035(e), Family Code, and Section
22 406.026, Government Code, as amended by this article, apply to a
23 waiver of citation executed in a suit for dissolution of a marriage
24 that is pending in a trial court on the effective date of this Act,
25 or that is filed on or after that date.

26 ARTICLE 10. YOUTH DIVERSION

27 SECTION 10.01. Article 45A.501, Code of Criminal Procedure,

as added by H.B. 1620, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, is amended by adding Subdivision (8-a) to read as follows:

(8-a) "Traffic offense" has the meaning assigned by Section 51.02, Family Code.

SECTION 10.02. Article 45A.504, Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by H.B. 1620, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b) A child is eligible to enter into a diversion agreement under this subchapter only once every 12 months ~~[365 days]~~.

(b-1) A child is eligible to enter into a diversion agreement under this subchapter for more than one offense if the offenses are alleged to have occurred as part of the same criminal episode, as defined by Section 3.01, Penal Code.

SECTION 10.03. Article 45A.510(a), Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by H.B. 1620, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, is amended to read as follows:

(a) If a charge involving a child who is eligible for diversion is filed with a court, and ~~[a justice or judge shall divert the case under this article as follows:]~~

~~[(1) if]~~ the child does not contest the charge, a justice or judge shall divert the case under this article without the child having to enter a plea~~[, or~~

~~[(2) if the child contests the charge, a justice or~~

~~judge shall divert the case under this article at the conclusion of trial on a finding of guilt without entering a judgment of conviction as provided by Article 45A.251].~~

SECTION 10.04. Article 45A.512(a), Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by H.B. 1620, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The clerk of a justice or municipal court may collect from a child's parent an ~~[a \$50]~~ administrative fee not to exceed \$50 to defray the costs of the diversion of the child's case under this subchapter.

SECTION 10.05. Section 53.01(b-1), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b-1) The person who is conducting the preliminary investigation shall, as appropriate, refer the child's case to a community resource coordination group, a local-level interagency staffing group, or other community juvenile service provider for services under Section 53.011, if the person determines that:

(1) ~~[the child is younger than 12 years of age,~~
~~[(2)]~~ there is probable cause to believe the child engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision;

(2) ~~[(3)]~~ the child's case does not require referral to the prosecuting attorney under Subsection (d) or (f);

(3) ~~[(4)]~~ the child is eligible for deferred prosecution under Section 53.03; and

(4) ~~[(5)]~~ the child:

1 (A) is younger than 12 years of age, and the
2 child and the child's family are not currently receiving services
3 under Section 53.011 and would benefit from receiving the services;
4 or

5 (B) resides in a general residential operation,
6 as that term is defined by Section 42.002, Human Resources Code.

7 SECTION 10.06. Section 82.004, Family Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 Sec. 82.004. FORM AND CONTENT OF APPLICATION. (a) A person
10 filing an application under this chapter shall use the protective
11 order application form created by the Office of Court
12 Administration of the Texas Judicial System under Section 72.039,
13 Government Code, that is available on the office's Internet
14 website, and shall include in the application:

15 (1) the name [~~and county of residence~~] of each
16 applicant;

17 (2) the county of residence of each applicant, unless
18 the applicant requests confidentiality pursuant to Section 82.011
19 or 85.007;

20 (3) the name and county of residence of each
21 individual alleged to have committed family violence;

22 (4) [~~3~~] the relationships between the applicants
23 and the individual alleged to have committed family violence;

24 (5) [~~4~~] a request for one or more protective orders;
25 [~~and~~]

26 (6) [~~5~~] whether an applicant is receiving services
27 from the Title IV-D agency in connection with a child support case

1 and, if known, the agency case number for each open case; and

2 (7) any additional information known by the applicant
3 that may assist in finding the respondent for the purposes of
4 services.

5 (b) An applicant may submit an affidavit of confidentiality
6 to the court pursuant to Section 72.039, Government Code, or
7 Section 82.011 or 85.007, Family Code, to omit confidential
8 information from the application and any subsequent protective
9 order. An affidavit of confidentiality is only for the court's use
10 and shall not be transmitted to the respondent.

11 (c) A party's failure to use the standardized protective
12 order form as required under Subsection (a) does not affect the
13 validity or enforceability of the application or any subsequent
14 protective order issued.

15 SECTION 10.07. Section 42.0426(b), Human Resources Code, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (b) A residential child-care facility shall implement a
18 behavior intervention program approved by the department for the
19 benefit of a child served by the facility who needs assistance in
20 managing the child's conduct. The program must include:

21 (1) behavior intervention instruction for staff
22 members who work directly with children served by the facility,
23 including crisis response training for emergency behavior
24 intervention with a goal of limiting law enforcement involvement;
25 and

26 (2) training for all employees regarding the risks
27 associated with the use of prone restraints.

SECTION 10.08. Section 152.00145, Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 152.00145. DIVERSION AND DETENTION POLICY FOR CERTAIN JUVENILES. (a) In this section, "general residential operation" has the meaning assigned by Section 42.002.

(b) A juvenile board shall establish policies that prioritize:

(1) the diversion from referral to a prosecuting attorney under Chapter 53, Family Code, of children who are:

(A) younger than 12 years of age [~~from referral to a prosecuting attorney under Chapter 53, Family Code~~]; or

(B) residing in a general residential operation, particularly children alleged to have engaged in conduct constituting a misdemeanor involving violence to a person; and

(2) the limitation of detention, to circumstances of last resort, of children who are:

(A) younger than 12 years of age; or

(B) residing in a general residential operation [~~to circumstances of last resort~~].

(c) To monitor the success of policies implemented under Subsection (b) for children who reside in general residential operations, a juvenile board shall track:

(1) the number of children referred to the board who reside in a general residential operation;

(2) the number of children described by Subdivision (1) who receive deferred prosecution or are referred to the juvenile probation department; and

1 (3) the general residential operation where a child
2 described by Subdivision (1) resides.

3 SECTION 10.09. Section 53.01(b-1), Family Code, as amended
4 by this article, applies only to conduct that occurs on or after the
5 effective date of this Act. Conduct that occurs before that date is
6 governed by the law in effect on the date the conduct occurred, and
7 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For the
8 purposes of this section, conduct occurred before the effective
9 date of this Act if any element of the conduct occurred before that
10 date.

11 ARTICLE 11. COURT-ORDERED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

12 SECTION 11.01. Sections 574.011(a) and (b), Health and
13 Safety Code, as amended by S.B. 1164, Acts of the 89th Legislature,
14 Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, are amended
15 to read as follows:

16 (a) A certificate of medical examination for mental illness
17 must be sworn to, dated, and signed by the examining
18 physician. The certificate must include:

- 19 (1) the name and address of the examining physician;
20 (2) the name and address of the person examined;
21 (3) the date and place of the examination;
22 (4) a brief diagnosis of the examined person's
23 physical and mental condition;
24 (5) the period, if any, during which the examined
25 person has been under the care of the examining physician;
26 (6) an accurate description of the mental health
27 treatment, if any, given by or administered under the direction of

1 the examining physician; and

2 (7) the examining physician's opinion that:

3 (A) the examined person is a person with mental
4 illness; and

5 (B) as a result of that illness the examined
6 person is[÷

7 [~~(i)~~] likely to cause serious harm to the
8 person or to others or is:

9 (i) [÷

10 [~~(ii)~~] suffering severe and abnormal
11 mental, emotional, or physical distress;

12 (ii) [~~(iii)~~] experiencing substantial
13 mental or physical deterioration of the proposed patient's ability
14 to function independently, which is exhibited by the proposed
15 patient's inability, except for reasons of indigence, to provide
16 for the proposed patient's basic needs, including food, clothing,
17 health, or safety; and

18 (iii) [~~(iv)~~] not able to make a rational
19 and informed decision as to whether to submit to treatment[÷~~or~~

20 [~~(v)~~—evidencing an inability to recognize
21 symptoms or appreciate the risks and benefits of treatment; and

22 [~~(B)~~—in the absence of inpatient mental health
23 treatment, the examined person is likely to suffer serious risk of
24 harm or to inflict serious harm on another person].

25 (b) The examining physician must specify in the certificate
26 which criterion listed in Subsection (a)(7)(B) [~~(a)(7)~~] forms the
27 basis for the physician's opinion.

SECTION 11.02. Sections 574.034(a) and (d), Health and Safety Code, as amended by S.B. 1164, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The judge may order a proposed patient to receive court-ordered temporary inpatient mental health services only if the judge or jury finds, from clear and convincing evidence, that:

(1) the proposed patient is a person with mental illness; and

(2) as a result of that mental illness the proposed patient:

(A) is likely to cause serious harm to the proposed patient;

(B) is likely to cause serious harm to others; or

(C) is:

(i) suffering severe and abnormal mental, emotional, or physical distress;

(ii) experiencing substantial mental or physical deterioration of the proposed patient's ability to function independently, which is exhibited by the proposed patient's inability, except for reasons of indigence, to provide for the proposed patient's basic needs, including food, clothing, health, or safety; and

(iii) unable to make a rational and informed decision as to whether or not to submit to treatment[~~, or~~

~~[(iv) evidencing an inability to recognize symptoms or to appreciate the risks and benefits of treatment, and~~

1 ~~[(D) in the absence of court-ordered temporary~~
2 ~~inpatient mental health services, is likely to suffer serious risk~~
3 ~~of harm or to inflict serious harm on another person].~~

4 (d) To be clear and convincing under Subsection (a), the
5 evidence must include expert testimony and, unless waived, evidence
6 of a recent overt act or a continuing pattern of behavior that tends
7 to confirm:

8 (1) the likelihood of serious harm to the proposed
9 patient or others; or

10 (2) ~~[and]~~ the proposed patient's distress and the
11 deterioration of the proposed patient's ability to function~~[, or~~

12 ~~[(2) the proposed patient's inability to recognize~~
13 ~~symptoms or appreciate the risks and benefits of treatment].~~

14 SECTION 11.03. Sections [574.035](#)(a) and (e), Health and
15 Safety Code, as amended by S.B. 1164, Acts of the 89th Legislature,
16 Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, are amended
17 to read as follows:

18 (a) The judge may order a proposed patient to receive
19 court-ordered extended inpatient mental health services only if the
20 jury, or the judge if the right to a jury is waived, finds, from
21 clear and convincing evidence, that:

22 (1) the proposed patient is a person with mental
23 illness;

24 (2) as a result of that mental illness the proposed
25 patient:

26 (A) is likely to cause serious harm to the
27 proposed patient;

(B) is likely to cause serious harm to others; or

(C) is:

(i) suffering severe and abnormal mental, emotional, or physical distress;

(ii) experiencing substantial mental or physical deterioration of the proposed patient's ability to function independently, which is exhibited by the proposed patient's inability, except for reasons of indigence, to provide for the proposed patient's basic needs, including food, clothing, health, or safety; and

(iii) unable to make a rational and informed decision as to whether or not to submit to treatment; ~~[or~~

~~[(iv) evidencing an inability to recognize symptoms or appreciate the risks and benefits of treatment, and~~

~~[(D) in the absence of court-ordered extended inpatient mental health services, is likely to suffer serious risk of harm or to inflict serious harm on another person,]~~

(3) the proposed patient's condition is expected to continue for more than 90 days; and

(4) the proposed patient has received court-ordered inpatient mental health services under this subtitle or under Chapter 46B, Code of Criminal Procedure, for at least 60 consecutive days during the preceding 12 months.

(e) To be clear and convincing under Subsection (a), the evidence must include expert testimony and evidence of a recent overt act or a continuing pattern of behavior that tends to confirm:

(1) the likelihood of serious harm to the proposed

1 patient or others; or

2 (2) [and] the proposed patient's distress and the
3 deterioration of the proposed patient's ability to function[~~, or~~

4 ~~[(2) the proposed patient's inability to recognize~~
5 ~~symptoms or appreciate the risks and benefits of treatment]~~.

6 SECTION 11.04. Chapter 574, Health and Safety Code, as
7 amended by this article, applies only to an application or
8 proceeding for court-ordered mental health services submitted or
9 that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act, regardless
10 of when an offense with which the defendant is charged was
11 committed.

12 ARTICLE 12. POWERS OF THE SUPREME COURT

13 SECTION 12.01. Section 22.004, Government Code, is amended
14 by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (c-1) and (c-2)
15 to read as follows:

16 (c) To ensure ~~[So that]~~ the supreme court has full
17 rulemaking power in civil actions, ~~[a rule adopted by the supreme~~
18 ~~court repeals]~~ all ~~[conflicting]~~ laws and parts of laws governing
19 practice and procedure in civil actions enacted before May 15,
20 1939, are repealed, subject to Subsection (c-1)~~[, but substantive~~
21 ~~law is not repealed]~~. This subsection does not repeal a substantive
22 law.

23 (c-1) A law or part of a law described by Subsection (c) is
24 not superseded until the supreme court adopts a rule that governs
25 the subject matter of the law or part of a law.

26 (c-2) At the time the supreme court files a rule, the court
27 shall file with the secretary of state a list of each article or

1 section of general law or each part of an article or section of
 2 general law that is superseded under Subsection (c-1) ~~[is repealed~~
 3 ~~or modified in any way]~~. The list has the same weight and effect as
 4 a decision of the court.

5 SECTION 12.02. Section 30.0035, Civil Practice and Remedies
 6 Code, is amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 30.0035. PERSONAL SERVICE OF PROCESS DURING
 8 LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDING PROHIBITED. A person may not serve citation
 9 or other civil process in person on a member, officer, or employee
 10 of the senate or house of representatives during any legislative
 11 proceeding. A court shall quash any service made in violation of
 12 this section. The supreme court shall revoke the certification of a
 13 process server who violates this section. ~~[This section is not~~
 14 ~~subject to Section 22.004(c), Government Code.]~~

15 SECTION 12.03. Section 34.041(c), Civil Practice and
 16 Remedies Code, is amended to read as follows:

17 (c) A sale of real property under this subchapter must take
 18 place between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on the first Tuesday of a month or,
 19 if the first Tuesday of a month occurs on January 1 or July 4,
 20 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month.
 21 ~~[Notwithstanding Section 22.004, Government Code, the supreme~~
 22 ~~court may not amend or adopt rules in conflict with this~~
 23 ~~subsection.]~~

24 SECTION 12.04. Section 1162.007(c), Estates Code, is
 25 amended to read as follows:

26 (c) An attorney does not violate the attorney-client
 27 privilege solely by complying with a court order to release an

1 instrument subject to this section and Sections 1162.005 and
2 1162.006. ~~[Notwithstanding Section 22.004, Government Code, the~~
3 ~~supreme court may not amend or adopt rules in conflict with this~~
4 ~~subsection.]~~

5 SECTION 12.05. Section 52.047(g), Government Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (g) Notwithstanding the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure,
8 an official court reporter who is required to prepare a transcript
9 in a criminal case without charging a fee is not entitled to payment
10 for the transcript from the state or county if the county paid a
11 substitute court reporter to perform the official court reporter's
12 regular duties while the transcript was being prepared. To the
13 extent that this subsection conflicts with the Texas Rules of
14 Appellate Procedure, this subsection controls. ~~[Notwithstanding~~
15 ~~Sections 22.004 and 22.108(b), the supreme court or the court of~~
16 ~~criminal appeals may not amend or adopt rules in conflict with this~~
17 ~~subsection.]~~

18 SECTION 12.06. Section 2273.004(c), Government Code, as
19 added by S.B. 33, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session,
20 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, is amended to read as
21 follows:

22 (c) Notwithstanding any other law:

23 (1) a court may not award costs or attorney's fees
24 under Rule 91a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, ~~[or under another~~
25 ~~rule the supreme court adopts under Section 22.004(g)]~~ to any
26 defendant against whom an action is brought under this section; and

27 (2) Chapters 27 and 110, Civil Practice and Remedies

Code, do not apply to an action brought under this section.

SECTION 12.07. Section 171.208(i), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(i) Notwithstanding any other law, a court may not award costs or attorney's fees under the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure ~~[or any other rule adopted by the supreme court under Section 22.004, Government Code,]~~ to a defendant in an action brought under this section.

SECTION 12.08. Section 455.351(h), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(h) Notwithstanding any other law or rule ~~[Section 22.004, Government Code]~~:

(1) a person may not continue the enjoined activity pending appeal or trial on the merits of an injunctive order entered in a suit brought under this subchapter;

(2) not later than the 90th day after the date of the injunctive order, the appropriate court of appeals shall hear and decide an appeal taken by a party enjoined under this subchapter; and

(3) if an appeal is not taken by a party temporarily enjoined under this subchapter ~~[article]~~, the parties are entitled to a full trial on the merits not later than the 90th day after the date of the temporary injunctive order.

SECTION 12.09. Effective January 1, 2026, Section 24.0043(a), Property Code, as added by S.B. 38, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective January 1, 2026, is amended to read as follows:

1 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) but
2 notwithstanding any other law, [~~including Section 22.004,~~
3 ~~Government Code,~~] only the legislature may modify or suspend
4 procedures prescribed by this chapter.

5 SECTION 12.10. The following provisions of the Civil
6 Practice and Remedies Code are repealed:

- 7 (1) Section 10.006;
- 8 (2) Section 14.013(c);
- 9 (3) Section 14.014;
- 10 (4) Section 14A.061(c);
- 11 (5) Section 14A.062;
- 12 (6) Section 15.066;
- 13 (7) Section 30.010(d);
- 14 (8) Section 30.013(f);
- 15 (9) Section 30.018(b);
- 16 (10) Section 51.017(b);
- 17 (11) Section 52.005(b);
- 18 (12) Section 64.091(k);
- 19 (13) Section 64.093(k);
- 20 (14) Section 65.045(b);
- 21 (15) Section 98.007(e);
- 22 (16) Section 98B.008(e), as added by S.B. 441, Acts of
23 the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective
24 September 1, 2025;
- 25 (17) Section 100B.004(e), as added by S.B. 2373, Acts
26 of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective
27 September 1, 2025;

(18) Section 134A.0065(k), as added by H.B. 4081, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025;

(19) Section 134A.007(c); and

(20) Section 154.028(m).

SECTION 12.11. The following provisions are repealed:

(1) Section 111.002(b), Family Code;

(2) Section 301.002, Family Code;

(3) Section 276.002(e), Finance Code;

(4) Section 23.303(e), Government Code, as added by S.B. 293, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025;

(5) Section 74.1625(b), Government Code; and

(6) Section 410.305(b), Labor Code.

SECTION 12.12. On the effective date of this Act, a rule adopted by the Texas Supreme Court under Section 22.004, Government Code, as that section existed before the effective date of this Act, that conflicts with a provision of law is invalid and has no effect in any action commenced in any court in this state on or after the effective date of this Act.

ARTICLE 13. JURORS

SECTION 13.01. Article 19A.105(b), Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended by H.B. 2637, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The following qualified persons may be exempted ~~[claim an exemption]~~ from grand jury service:

1 (1) a person who is 75 years of age or older;

2 (2) a person responsible for the care of a child who is
3 younger than 18 years of age and who will be without adequate
4 supervision if the person serves on the grand jury;

5 (3) a student of a public or private secondary school;

6 (4) a person enrolled in and in actual attendance at an
7 institution of higher education; and

8 (5) any other person the court determines has a
9 reasonable excuse from service.

10 SECTION 13.02. Section 62.107(c), Government Code, as
11 amended by H.B. 2637, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular
12 Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, is amended to read
13 as follows:

14 (c) A person who files a statement with a clerk of the court,
15 as provided by Subsection (a), claiming an exemption because the
16 person is 75 years of age or older, may also claim the permanent
17 exemption on that ground authorized by Section 62.108 by including
18 in the statement filed with the clerk a declaration that the person
19 desires the permanent exemption. The clerk of the court with whom
20 the declaration is filed shall notify the district clerk ~~[secretary~~
21 ~~of state]~~.

22 SECTION 13.03. Section 62.108(e), Government Code, as
23 amended by H.B. 2637, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular
24 Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, is amended to read
25 as follows:

26 (e) A person who has claimed a permanent exemption from jury
27 service because the person is 75 years of age or older may rescind

1 the exemption at any time by filing a signed request for the
2 rescission with the district clerk [~~voter registrar~~] of the county.
3 Rescission of a permanent exemption does not affect the right of a
4 person who is 75 years of age or older to claim permanent exemption
5 at a later time.

6 SECTION 13.04. Sections 62.109(a) and (b), Government Code,
7 as amended by H.B. 2637, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular
8 Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, are amended to read
9 as follows:

10 (a) The judge of a district court or, if authorized by the
11 local administrative district judge or the county jury plan, the
12 district clerk may permanently or for a specified period exempt
13 from service as a juror in all the county and district courts in the
14 county a person with a physical or mental impairment or with an
15 inability to comprehend or communicate in the English language that
16 makes it impossible or very difficult for the person to serve on a
17 jury.

18 (b) A person requesting an exemption under this section must
19 submit to the court or the district clerk described by Subsection
20 (a) an affidavit stating the person's name and address and the
21 reason for and the duration of the requested exemption. A person
22 requesting an exemption due to a physical or mental impairment must
23 attach to the affidavit a statement from a physician. The affidavit
24 and physician's statement may be submitted to the court at the time
25 the person is summoned for jury service or at any other time.

26 SECTION 13.05. The changes in law made by this article apply
27 only to a person who is summoned to appear for service on a grand

1 jury or petit jury on or after the effective date of this Act. A
2 person who is summoned to appear for service on a grand jury or
3 petit jury before the effective date of this Act is governed by the
4 law in effect on the date the person was summoned, and the former
5 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

6 ARTICLE 14. MISCELLANEOUS JUDICIAL, COURT, AND RECORD PROVISIONS

7 SECTION 14.01. The heading to Section 13.0021, Election
8 Code, is amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 13.0021. ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION FROM
10 CERTAIN FEDERAL AND STATE JUDGES, FEDERAL OFFICIALS, CLERKS,
11 GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING MUNICIPAL COURT PERSONNEL, AND
12 FAMILY MEMBERS.

13 SECTION 14.02. Section 13.0021(b), Election Code, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (b) The registrar of the county shall omit from the
16 registration list the residence address for a [If the] registration
17 applicant who is:

18 (1) a federal judge, including a federal bankruptcy
19 judge;

20 (2) [x] a state judge;

21 (3) [x] a marshal of the United States Marshals
22 Service;

23 (4) [x] a United States attorney;

24 (5) a current or former county clerk, district clerk,
25 or county and district clerk, or a current or former employee of the
26 office of a county clerk, district clerk, or county and district
27 clerk or municipal court personnel;

1 (6) a current or former employee whose duties relate
2 to court administration, including a court clerk, court
3 coordinator, court administrator, juvenile case manager, law
4 clerk, or staff attorney;

5 (7) a current or former employee of the Office of Court
6 Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities
7 administratively attached to the office;

8 (8) a current or former employee or commissioner of
9 the State Commission on Judicial Conduct; or

10 (9) [~~7~~, ~~or~~] a family member of a person listed in
11 Subdivisions (1)-(8) [~~state judge, a federal judge, including a~~
12 ~~federal bankruptcy judge, a marshal of the United States Marshals~~
13 ~~Service, or a United States attorney, the registrar of the county~~
14 ~~shall omit the applicant's residence address from the registration~~
15 ~~list~~].

16 SECTION 14.03. Section 253.152(7), Election Code, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 (7) "Statewide judicial office" means the office of
19 chief justice or justice, supreme court, or presiding judge or
20 judge, court of criminal appeals, or the Court of Appeals for the
21 Fifteenth Court of Appeals District.

22 SECTION 14.04. Subchapter A, Chapter 58, Family Code, is
23 amended by adding Section 58.010 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 58.010. CONFIDENTIALITY OF WARRANTS OF ARREST.
25 Notwithstanding Article 15.26, Code of Criminal Procedure, an
26 arrest warrant issued for a child and a complaint or affidavit on
27 which an arrest warrant issued for a child is based are confidential

1 and may be disclosed only to the following:

2 (1) the judge, probation officer, and professional
3 staff or consultants of the juvenile court;

4 (2) a juvenile justice agency, as defined by Section
5 58.101;

6 (3) a criminal justice agency, as defined by Section
7 411.082, Government Code;

8 (4) an attorney representing the child's parent in a
9 proceeding under this title;

10 (5) an attorney representing the child;

11 (6) a prosecuting attorney; or

12 (7) with permission from the juvenile court, another
13 individual, agency, or institution with a legitimate interest in
14 the information or court.

15 SECTION 14.05. (a) Section 81.113(a), Government Code, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), the state bar
18 shall credit an attorney licensed in this state with meeting the
19 minimum continuing legal education requirements of the state bar
20 for a reporting year if during the reporting year the attorney is:

21 (1) employed full-time as an attorney by:

22 (A) ~~[(1)]~~ the senate;

23 (B) ~~[(2)]~~ the house of representatives;

24 (C) ~~[(3)]~~ a committee, division, department, or
25 office of the senate or house;

26 (D) ~~[(4)]~~ the Texas Legislative Council;

27 (E) ~~[(5)]~~ the Legislative Budget Board;

1 (F) [~~(6)~~] the Legislative Reference Library;
2 (G) [~~(7)~~] the office of the state auditor; or
3 (H) [~~(8)~~] the Sunset Advisory Commission; or
4 (2) serving as a state official appointed by the
5 governor and confirmed by the senate.

6 (b) Section 81.113, Government Code, as amended by this
7 article, applies only to the minimum requirements for a continuing
8 legal education compliance year that ends on or after the effective
9 date of this Act. The minimum requirements for continuing legal
10 education for a compliance year that ends before that date are
11 covered by the law and rules in effect when the compliance year
12 ended, and that law and those rules are continued in effect for that
13 purpose.

14 SECTION 14.06. Section 92.001(1), Government Code, as added
15 by H.B. 5081, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025,
16 and effective September 1, 2025, is amended to read as follows:

17 (1) "At-risk individual" means:
18 (A) a judge, as defined by Section 33.001;
19 (B) a federal judge, as defined by Section
20 411.201, who resides in this state;
21 (C) a court clerk; or [and]
22 (D) [~~(C)~~] an employee of a state court, a court
23 clerk, the office, or another agency in the judicial branch of state
24 government.

25 SECTION 14.07. Section 552.117(a), Government Code, as
26 amended by S.B. 370 and S.B. 1569, Acts of the 89th Legislature,
27 Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, is

reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(a) Information is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if it is information that relates to the home address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, or social security number of the following person or that reveals whether the person has family members:

(1) a current or former official or employee of a governmental body, except as otherwise provided by Section 552.024;

(2) a current or honorably retired peace officer as defined by Article 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure, or a current or honorably retired security officer commissioned under Section 51.212, Education Code, regardless of whether the officer complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175, as applicable;

(3) a current or former employee of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or of the predecessor in function of the department or any division of the department, regardless of whether the current or former employee complies with Section 552.1175;

(4) a peace officer as defined by Article 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure, or other law, a reserve law enforcement officer, a commissioned deputy game warden, or a corrections officer in a municipal, county, or state penal institution in this state who was killed in the line of duty, regardless of whether the deceased complied with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

(5) a commissioned security officer as defined by Section 1702.002, Occupations Code, regardless of whether the officer complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175, as applicable;

1 (6) an officer or employee of a community supervision
2 and corrections department established under Chapter 76 who
3 performs a duty described by Section 76.004(b), regardless of
4 whether the officer or employee complies with Section 552.024 or
5 552.1175;

6 (7) a current or former employee of the office of the
7 attorney general and a family member of the current or former
8 employee, regardless of whether the person complies with Section
9 552.024 or 552.1175;

10 (8) a current or former employee of the Texas Juvenile
11 Justice Department or of the predecessors in function of the
12 department, regardless of whether the current or former employee
13 complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

14 (9) a current or former juvenile probation or
15 supervision officer certified by the Texas Juvenile Justice
16 Department, or the predecessors in function of the department,
17 under Title 12, Human Resources Code, regardless of whether the
18 current or former officer complies with Section 552.024 or
19 552.1175;

20 (10) a current or former employee of a juvenile
21 justice program or facility, as those terms are defined by Section
22 261.405, Family Code, regardless of whether the current or former
23 employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

24 (11) a current or former member of the United States
25 Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Marine Corps, an auxiliary
26 service of one of those branches of the armed forces, or the Texas
27 military forces, as that term is defined by Section 437.001;

1 (12) a current or former district attorney, criminal
2 district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose
3 jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services
4 matters, regardless of whether the current or former attorney
5 complies with Section [552.024](#) or [552.1175](#);

6 (13) a current or former employee of a district
7 attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal
8 attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child
9 protective services matters, regardless of whether the current or
10 former employee complies with Section [552.024](#) or [552.1175](#);

11 (14) a current or former employee of the Texas Civil
12 Commitment Office or of the predecessor in function of the office or
13 a division of the office, regardless of whether the current or
14 former employee complies with Section [552.024](#) or [552.1175](#);

15 (15) a current or former federal judge or state judge,
16 as those terms are defined by Section [1.005](#), Election Code, a
17 federal bankruptcy judge, a marshal of the United States Marshals
18 Service, a United States attorney, or a family member of a current
19 or former federal judge, including a federal bankruptcy judge, a
20 marshal of the United States Marshals Service, a United States
21 attorney, or a state judge;

22 (16) a current or former child protective services
23 caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator
24 for the Department of Family and Protective Services, regardless of
25 whether the caseworker or investigator complies with Section
26 [552.024](#) or [552.1175](#), or a current or former employee of a department
27 contractor performing child protective services caseworker, adult

1 protective services caseworker, or investigator functions for the
2 contractor on behalf of the department;

3 (17) an elected public officer, regardless of whether
4 the officer complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

5 (18) a current or former United States attorney,
6 assistant United States attorney, federal public defender, deputy
7 federal public defender, or assistant federal public defender and
8 the spouse or child of the current or former attorney or public
9 defender, regardless of whether the person complies with Section
10 552.024 or 552.1175; ~~[or]~~

11 (19) a firefighter or volunteer firefighter or
12 emergency medical services personnel as defined by Section 773.003,
13 Health and Safety Code, regardless of whether the firefighter or
14 volunteer firefighter or emergency medical services personnel
15 comply with Section 552.024 or 552.1175, as applicable;i

16 (20) a current or former employee of a public
17 defender's office as defined by Article 26.044(a), Code of Criminal
18 Procedure, regardless of whether the current or former employee
19 complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;i

20 (21) ~~[(20)]~~ a member of the governing board of an
21 institution of higher education or a private or independent
22 institution of higher education, as those terms are defined by
23 Section 61.003, Education Code;

24 (22) ~~[(21)]~~ the chancellor or other chief executive
25 officer of a university system, as defined by Section 61.003,
26 Education Code; ~~[or]~~

27 (23) ~~[(22)]~~ the president or other chief executive

officer of an institution of higher education or a private or independent institution of higher education, as those terms are defined by Section [61.003](#), Education Code;

(24) a current or former county clerk, district clerk, or county and district clerk, or a current or former employee of the office of a county clerk, district clerk, or county and district clerk, regardless of whether the current or former clerk or employee complies with Section [552.024](#) or [552.1175](#);

(25) a current or former employee whose duties relate to court administration, including a court clerk, court coordinator, court administrator, juvenile case manager, law clerk, or staff attorney, regardless of whether the employee complies with Section [552.024](#) or [552.1175](#);

(26) a current or former employee of the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities administratively attached to the office, regardless of whether the employee complies with Section [552.024](#) or [552.1175](#); or

(27) a current or former employee or commissioner of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, regardless of whether the employee or commissioner complies with Section [552.024](#) or [552.1175](#).

SECTION 14.08. Section [552.117](#), Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (b-1), all ~~[All]~~ documents filed with a county clerk and all documents filed with a district clerk are exempt from this section.

(b-1) A county clerk or district clerk on request of a

1 person to whom this section applies shall redact information
2 described by Subsection (a) that relates to the person posted on an
3 Internet website by:

4 (1) the clerk; or

5 (2) an entity with which the county contracts for the
6 provision or maintenance of the Internet website.

7 SECTION 14.09. Section 552.1175(a), Government Code, as
8 amended by S.B. 370, S.B. 1540, and S.B. 1569, Acts of the 89th
9 Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1,
10 2025, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

11 (a) This section applies only to:

12 (1) current or honorably retired peace officers as
13 defined by Article 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure, or special
14 investigators as described by Article 2A.002, Code of Criminal
15 Procedure;

16 (2) current or honorably retired county jailers as
17 defined by Section 1701.001, Occupations Code;

18 (3) current or former employees of the Texas
19 Department of Criminal Justice or of the predecessor in function of
20 the department or any division of the department;

21 (4) commissioned security officers as defined by
22 Section 1702.002, Occupations Code;

23 (5) a current or former district attorney, criminal
24 district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose
25 jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services
26 matters;

27 (5-a) a current or former employee of a district

1 attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal
2 attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child
3 protective services matters;

4 (6) officers and employees of a community supervision
5 and corrections department established under Chapter 76 who perform
6 a duty described by Section 76.004(b);

7 (7) criminal investigators of the United States as
8 described by Article 2A.002(a), Code of Criminal Procedure;

9 (8) current or honorably retired police officers and
10 inspectors of the United States Federal Protective Service;

11 (9) current or former employees of the office of the
12 attorney general and a family member of the current or former
13 employee;

14 (10) current or former juvenile probation and
15 detention officers certified by the Texas Juvenile Justice
16 Department, or the predecessors in function of the department,
17 under Title 12, Human Resources Code;

18 (11) current or former employees of a juvenile justice
19 program or facility, as those terms are defined by Section 261.405,
20 Family Code;

21 (12) current or former employees of the Texas Juvenile
22 Justice Department or the predecessors in function of the
23 department;

24 (13) federal judges and state judges as defined by
25 Section 1.005, Election Code;

26 (14) current or former employees of the Texas Civil
27 Commitment Office or of the predecessor in function of the office or

1 a division of the office;

2 (15) a current or former member of the United States
3 Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Marine Corps, an auxiliary
4 service of one of those branches of the armed forces, or the Texas
5 military forces, as that term is defined by Section 437.001;

6 (16) a current or former child protective services
7 caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator
8 for the Department of Family and Protective Services or a current or
9 former employee of a department contractor performing child
10 protective services caseworker, adult protective services
11 caseworker, or investigator functions for the contractor on behalf
12 of the department;

13 (17) an elected public officer;

14 (18) a firefighter or volunteer firefighter or
15 emergency medical services personnel as defined by Section 773.003,
16 Health and Safety Code;

17 (19) a current or former United States attorney,
18 assistant United States attorney, federal public defender, deputy
19 federal public defender, or assistant federal public defender; ~~or~~

20 (20) a current or former employee of a public
21 defender's office as defined by Article 26.044(a), Code of Criminal
22 Procedure;

23 (21) ~~[(20)]~~ a current or former election official, as
24 defined by Section 1.005, Election Code, or employee, volunteer, or
25 designee of an election official, or an employee of the secretary of
26 state's office who performs duties relating to elections;

27 (22) ~~[(20)]~~ a member of the governing board of an

1 institution of higher education or a private or independent
2 institution of higher education, as those terms are defined by
3 Section 61.003, Education Code;

4 (23) [(21)] the chancellor or other chief executive
5 officer of a university system, as defined by Section 61.003,
6 Education Code; ~~and~~

7 (24) [(22)] the president or other chief executive
8 officer of an institution of higher education or a private or
9 independent institution of higher education, as those terms are
10 defined by Section 61.003, Education Code;

11 (25) a current or former county clerk, district clerk,
12 or county and district clerk, or a current or former employee of the
13 office of a county clerk, district clerk, or county and district
14 clerk;

15 (26) a current or former employee whose duties relate
16 to court administration, including a court clerk, court
17 coordinator, court administrator, juvenile case manager, law
18 clerk, or staff attorney;

19 (27) a current or former employee of the Office of
20 Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities
21 administratively attached to the office; and

22 (28) a current or former employee or commissioner of
23 the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

24 SECTION 14.10. Section 552.1175, Government Code, is
25 amended by amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsection (e-1) to
26 read as follows:

27 (e) Except as provided by Subsection (e-1), all ~~[All]~~

documents filed with a county clerk and all documents filed with a district clerk are exempt from this section.

(e-1) A county clerk or district clerk on request of a person to whom this section applies shall redact information described by Subsection (b) that relates to the person from any document the clerk posts on an Internet website.

SECTION 14.11. Section 615.003(a), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A county ~~[with a population of 150,000 or more]~~ may construct, enlarge, equip, and operate a parking lot or parking garage adjacent to or near the county courthouse.

SECTION 14.12. Section 42.07(b), Penal Code, is amended by amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

(1) "Court employee" means an employee whose duties relate to court administration, including a court clerk, court coordinator, court administrator, juvenile case manager, law clerk, or staff attorney. The term does not include a judge.

(1-a) "Electronic communication" means a transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photo-optical system. The term includes:

(A) a communication initiated through the use of electronic mail, instant message, network call, a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, text message, a social media platform or application, an Internet website, any other

Internet-based communication tool, or facsimile machine; and

(B) a communication made to a pager.

SECTION 14.13. Section 42.07(c), Penal Code, as amended by S.B. 482, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, is amended to read as follows:

(c) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor, except that the offense is:

(1) a Class A misdemeanor if:

(A) ~~[(1)]~~ the actor has previously been convicted under this section;

(B) ~~[(2)]~~ the offense was committed under Subsection (a)(7) or (8) and:

(i) ~~[(A)]~~ the offense was committed against a child under 18 years of age with the intent that the child:

(a) ~~[(i)]~~ commit suicide; or

(b) ~~[(ii)]~~ engage in conduct causing serious bodily injury to the child; or

(ii) ~~[(B)]~~ the actor has previously violated a temporary restraining order or injunction issued under Chapter 129A, Civil Practice and Remedies Code; ~~[or]~~

(C) ~~[(3)]~~ the offense was committed against a person the actor knows or reasonably should know is an employee or agent of a utility while the person is performing a duty within the scope of that employment or agency; or

(D) the offense was committed against a person the actor knows is a court employee;

(2) a state jail felony if the offense was committed

against a person the actor knows is:

(A) a court employee and the actor has previously been convicted under this section; or

(B) a judge; and

(3) a felony of the third degree if the offense was committed against a person the actor knows is a judge and the actor has previously been convicted under this section.

SECTION 14.14. Section 25.025(a), Tax Code, as amended by H.B. 1620, S.B. 370, and S.B. 1569, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(a) This section applies only to:

(1) a current or former peace officer as defined by Article 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure, and the spouse or surviving spouse of the peace officer;

(2) the adult child of a current peace officer as defined by Article 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure;

(3) a current or honorably retired county jailer as defined by Section 1701.001, Occupations Code;

(4) an employee of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;

(5) a commissioned security officer as defined by Section 1702.002, Occupations Code;

(6) an individual who shows that the individual, the individual's child, or another person in the individual's household is a victim of family violence as defined by Section 71.004, Family Code, by providing:

1 (A) a copy of a protective order issued under
2 Chapter 85, Family Code, or a magistrate's order for emergency
3 protection issued under Article 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure;
4 or

5 (B) other independent documentary evidence
6 necessary to show that the individual, the individual's child, or
7 another person in the individual's household is a victim of family
8 violence;

9 (7) an individual who shows that the individual, the
10 individual's child, or another person in the individual's household
11 is a victim of sexual assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking of
12 persons by providing:

13 (A) a copy of a protective order issued under
14 Subchapter A or B, Chapter 7B, Code of Criminal Procedure, or a
15 magistrate's order for emergency protection issued under Article
16 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure; or

17 (B) other independent documentary evidence
18 necessary to show that the individual, the individual's child, or
19 another person in the individual's household is a victim of sexual
20 assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking of persons;

21 (8) a participant in the address confidentiality
22 program administered by the attorney general under Subchapter B,
23 Chapter 58, Code of Criminal Procedure, who provides proof of
24 certification under Article 58.059, Code of Criminal Procedure;

25 (9) a federal judge, a federal bankruptcy judge, a
26 marshal of the United States Marshals Service, a state judge, or a
27 family member of a federal judge, a federal bankruptcy judge, a

1 marshal of the United States Marshals Service, or a state judge;

2 (10) a current or former district attorney, criminal
3 district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose
4 jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services
5 matters;

6 (11) a current or former employee of a district
7 attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal
8 attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child
9 protective services matters;

10 (12) an officer or employee of a community supervision
11 and corrections department established under Chapter 76,
12 Government Code, who performs a duty described by Section 76.004(b)
13 of that code;

14 (13) a criminal investigator of the United States as
15 described by Article 2A.002(a), Code of Criminal Procedure;

16 (14) a current or honorably retired police officer or
17 inspector of the United States Federal Protective Service;

18 (15) a current or former United States attorney,
19 assistant United States attorney, federal public defender, deputy
20 federal public defender, or assistant federal public defender and
21 the spouse and child of the attorney or public defender;

22 (16) a current or former employee of the office of the
23 attorney general and a family member of the current or former
24 employee;

25 (17) a medical examiner or person who performs
26 forensic analysis or testing who is employed by this state or one or
27 more political subdivisions of this state;

1 (18) a current or former member of the United States
2 armed forces who has served in an area that the president of the
3 United States by executive order designates for purposes of 26
4 U.S.C. Section 112 as an area in which armed forces of the United
5 States are or have engaged in combat;

6 (19) a current or former employee of the Texas
7 Juvenile Justice Department or of the predecessors in function of
8 the department;

9 (20) a current or former juvenile probation or
10 supervision officer certified by the Texas Juvenile Justice
11 Department, or the predecessors in function of the department,
12 under Title 12, Human Resources Code;

13 (21) a current or former employee of a juvenile
14 justice program or facility, as those terms are defined by Section
15 [261.405](#), Family Code;

16 (22) a current or former employee of the Texas Civil
17 Commitment Office or the predecessor in function of the office or a
18 division of the office;

19 (23) a current or former employee of a federal judge or
20 state judge;

21 (24) a current or former child protective services
22 caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator
23 for the Department of Family and Protective Services or a current or
24 former employee of a department contractor performing child
25 protective services caseworker, adult protective services
26 caseworker, or investigator functions for the contractor on behalf
27 of the department;

1 (25) an elected public officer;

2 (26) a firefighter or volunteer firefighter or
3 emergency medical services personnel as defined by Section 773.003,
4 Health and Safety Code;

5 (27) a customs and border protection officer or border
6 patrol agent of United States Customs and Border Protection or the
7 spouse, surviving spouse, or adult child of a customs and border
8 protection officer or border patrol agent;

9 (28) a current or former employee or contract staff
10 member of a university health care provider at a corrections
11 facility operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or
12 the Texas Juvenile Justice Department;

13 (29) a current or former attorney for the Department
14 of Family and Protective Services;

15 (30) a member of the governing board of an institution
16 of higher education or a private or independent institution of
17 higher education, as those terms are defined by Section 61.003,
18 Education Code;

19 (31) the chancellor or other chief executive officer
20 of a university system, as defined by Section 61.003, Education
21 Code; ~~and~~

22 (32) the president or other chief executive officer of
23 an institution of higher education or a private or independent
24 institution of higher education, as those terms are defined by
25 Section 61.003, Education Code;

26 (33) ~~(30)~~ a current or former employee of a public
27 defender's office as defined by Article 26.044(a), Code of Criminal

1 Procedure;

2 (34) a current or former county clerk, district clerk,
3 or county and district clerk, or a current or former employee of the
4 office of a county clerk, district clerk, or county and district
5 clerk;

6 (35) a current or former employee whose duties relate
7 to court administration, including a court clerk, court
8 coordinator, court administrator, juvenile case manager, law
9 clerk, or staff attorney;

10 (36) a current or former employee of the Office of
11 Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities
12 administratively attached to the office; and

13 (37) a current or former employee or commissioner of
14 the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

15 SECTION 14.15. Section 521.121, Transportation Code, is
16 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection
17 (c-1) to read as follows:

18 (a) The driver's license must include:

19 (1) a distinguishing number assigned by the department
20 to the license holder;

21 (2) a photograph of the entire face of the holder;

22 (3) the full name and date of birth of the holder;

23 (4) a brief description of the holder; and

24 (5) the license holder's residence address or, for a
25 license holder using the procedure under Subsection (c):

26 (A) [7] the street address of the courthouse in
27 which the license holder or license holder's spouse or parent;

1 (i) serves as a federal judge, including a
2 federal bankruptcy judge, a marshal of the United States Marshals
3 Service, a United States attorney, or a state judge; or

4 (ii) performs duties related to court
5 administration, including a court clerk, court coordinator, court
6 administrator, juvenile case manager, law clerk, or staff attorney;
7 or

8 (B) the office address of the office in which the
9 license holder or the license holder's spouse or parent performs
10 duties as an employee of the office of a county clerk, district
11 clerk, or county and district clerk, or of the Office of Court
12 Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities
13 administratively attached to the office, or as an employee or
14 commissioner of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

15 (c) The department shall establish a procedure, on a license
16 holder's qualification for or appointment to office as a federal or
17 state judge as defined by Section 1.005, Election Code, or as a
18 county clerk, district clerk, or county and district clerk, or as a
19 federal bankruptcy judge, a marshal of the United States Marshals
20 Service, ~~or~~ a United States attorney, or for a license holder
21 whose duties relate to court administration, including a court
22 clerk, court coordinator, court administrator, juvenile case
23 manager, law clerk, or staff attorney, or as an employee of the
24 office of a county clerk, district clerk, or county and district
25 clerk, or of the Office of Court Administration of the Texas
26 Judicial System and entities administratively attached to the
27 office, or as an employee or commissioner of the State Commission on

Judicial Conduct, to omit the residence address of the judge, ~~or~~ official, employee, or commissioner and any family member of the judge, ~~or~~ official, employee, or commissioner on the license holder's license and to print ~~include~~, in lieu of that address, the street address of the courthouse or office building in which the license holder or license holder's spouse or parent serves as a federal or state judge, ~~or~~ official, employee, or commissioner.

(c-1) The residence address of a license holder whose residence address is omitted using the procedure under Subsection (c) is confidential and is available only for the official use of the department or a law enforcement agency.

SECTION 14.16. Section 42.07, Penal Code, as amended by this article, applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before that date is governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

SECTION 14.17. Not later than November 1, 2026, the Department of Public Safety shall:

(1) review the department's processes for implementation of and compliance with Section 521.121, Transportation Code, as amended by this Act; and

(2) submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, each member of the legislature, and the Texas Judicial Council a written report

1 containing the results of the review, a description of the methods
2 used to prepare the review, and any recommendations for legislative
3 or other action.

4 ARTICLE 15. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 SECTION 15.01. Except as otherwise provided by a provision
6 of this Act, this Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day
7 of the legislative session.