

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1575

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the development and implementation of an all-hazards
3 court security plan, composition and recommendations of court
4 security committees, and increasing the penalty for certain
5 criminal offenses committed against an employee of a court or the
6 office.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 29.014, Government Code, is amended by
9 amending Subsections (c) and (d) and adding Subsection (e) to read
10 as follows:

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

15 (d) A committee shall [may] recommend to the municipality
16 the uses of resources and expenditures of money for courthouse
17 security, but may not direct the assignment of those resources or
18 the expenditure of those funds. The municipality shall give
19 preference to the court security committee's recommendations
20 regarding the expenditures of funds when considering use of funds
21 collected under the Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 102.017.

22 (e) A court security committee established under Sec.
23 74.092(13) is not a governmental body as defined under Sec.
24 551.001(3).

1 SECTION 2. Section [30.00007](#), Government Code, is amended by
2 amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read
3 as follows:

4 (b) The presiding judge shall:

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

8 (2) provide for the distribution of cases from the
9 central docket to the individual municipal judges to equalize the
10 distribution of business in the courts;

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

13 (4) temporarily assign judges or substitute judges to
14 exchange benches and to act for each other in a proceeding pending
15 in a court if necessary for the expeditious disposition of business
16 in the courts;

17 (5) supervise and control the operation and clerical
18 functions of the administrative department of each court, including
19 the court's personnel, during the proceedings of the court; and

20 (6) establish a court security committee to adopt
21 security policies and procedures including a court emergency
management plan for the courts served by the presiding judge that is
23 composed of:

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

26 (B) a representative of the law enforcement
27 agency or other entity that provides the primary security for the

1 court;

2 (C) a representative of the municipality; and

3 (D) any other person the committee determines
4 necessary to assist the committee.

5 (c) A court security committee shall [may] recommend to the
6 governing body the uses of resources and expenditures of money for
7 courthouse security, but may not direct the assignment of those
8 resources or the expenditure of those funds. The municipality
9 shall give preference to the court security committee's
10 recommendations regarding the expenditures of funds when
11 considering use of funds collected under Code of Criminal Procedure
12 Art. 102.017.

13 (d) A court security committee established under Sec.
14 74.092(13) is not a governmental body as defined under Sec.
15 551.001(3).

16 SECTION 3. Section 72.015(c), Government Code, is amended
17 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.

1 SECTION 4. Section 74.092, Government Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 Sec. 74.092. DUTIES OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE. (a) A
4 local administrative judge, for the courts for which the judge
5 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 (9) supervise the budget and fiscal matters of the
26 local courts, subject to local rules of administration;

27 (10) coordinate and cooperate with any other local

1 administrative judge in the district in the assignment of cases in
2 the courts' concurrent jurisdiction for the efficient operation of
3 the court system and the effective administration of justice;

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

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

10 (13) establish a court security committee to adopt
11 security policies and procedures including a court emergency
12 management plan for the state and county trial courts in the county
13 ~~[courts served by the local administrative district judge]~~ that is
14 composed of:

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

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

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

20 (D) a representative of the county commissioners
21 court;

22 (E) ~~(D)~~ one judge of each type of court in the
23 county other than a municipal court or a municipal court of record;

24 (F) ~~(E)~~ a representative of any county
25 attorney's office, district attorney's office, or criminal district
26 attorney's office that serves in the applicable courts; and

27 (G) ~~(F)~~ any other person the committee

1 determines necessary to assist the committee.

2 (b) A court security committee shall [may] recommend to the
3 county commissioners court the uses of resources and expenditures
4 of money for courthouse security, but may not direct the assignment
5 of those resources or the expenditure of those funds. The
6 commissioners court shall give preference to a court security
7 committee's recommendations regarding the expenditures of funds
8 when considering use of funds collected under Code of Criminal
9 Procedure Art. 102.017.

10 (c) A court security committee established under Sec.
11 74.092(13) is not a governmental body as defined under Sec.
12 551.001(3).

13 SECTION 5. Section 1.07(a), Penal Code, is amended by
14 adding Subdivision (14-a) to read as follows:

15 (14-a) "Court personnel" is an employee whose duties
16 are performed on behalf of the administration of a court, including
17 but not limited to a court clerk, court coordinator, court
18 administrator, law clerk, and staff attorney.

19 SECTION 6. Section 42.07, Penal Code, is amended by adding
20 Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

21 (c-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (c), an offense under this
22 section is:

23 (1) a Class A misdemeanor if the offense was committed
24 against court personnel;

25 (2) a state jail felony if the offense was committed:

26 (A) against court personnel and the actor has
27 been previously convicted under this section; or

(B) against a judge; or

(3) a third-degree felony if the offense was committed
judge and the actor has been previously convicted under
n.

5 SECTION 7. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections
6 1.07(a) and 42.07, Penal Code, apply only to an offense committed on
7 or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed
8 before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in
9 effect on the date the offense was committed, and the former law is
10 continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section,
11 an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if
12 any element of the offense occurred before that date.

13 SECTION 8. As soon as practicable after the effective date
14 of this Act, a court security committee shall develop an
15 all-hazards court security plan as required by Section 29.014,
16 30.00007, or 74.092, Government Code, as amended by this Act.

17 SECTION 9. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails
18 over another Act of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025,
19 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted
20 codes.

21 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.