

By: Hughes  
(Leach, Morales of Maverick)

S.B. No. 2878

Substitute the following for S.B. No. 2878:

By: Leach

C.S.S.B. No. 2878

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, and youth diversion, and to public office candidate eligibility; 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 [~~7~~] GUADALUPE [~~7~~ 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 [~~7~~] Guadalupe [~~7~~ 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) The district clerk serves as clerk of a district court in all criminal and civil matters, including family matters, except the county clerk serves as 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 1.08. (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 January 1, 2027, 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 January 1, 2027.

SECTION 1.10. Section 24.60043(d), Government Code, as effective October 1, 2025, 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 September 1, 2025.

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 September 1, 2025.

SECTION 1.13. (a) Effective January 1, 2027, 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 January 1, 2027.

SECTION 1.14. (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 September 1, 2025.

SECTION 1.15. (a) Effective October 1, 2025, 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 October 1, 2025.

SECTION 1.16. (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).

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

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

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

6 SECTION 1.17. Section 24.911, Government Code, is amended  
7 by adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:

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

10 SECTION 1.18. Section 24.913, Government Code, is amended  
11 by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

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

14 SECTION 1.19. Effective January 1, 2029, Section 43.101,  
15 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

20 SECTION 1.20. (a) Effective January 1, 2029, Subchapter B,  
21 Chapter 43, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 43.1742  
22 to read as follows:

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

27 (b) The office of district attorney for the 273rd Judicial

District is created on January 1, 2029.

(c) The office of district attorney for the 273rd Judicial District exists for purposes of the primary and general elections in 2028.

SECTION 1.21. 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 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 1.22. (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 1.23. 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, Fannin, Galveston, Grayson, Gregg, Harrison, Hays, Hidalgo, Jasper, Jefferson, Kaufman, Kendall, Lubbock, McLennan, Madison, Medina, Navarro, Newton, Panola, Polk, Randall, Rockwall, San Jacinto, Smith, Tarrant, Taylor, Tyler, Upshur, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wichita, Wood, and Yoakum; and



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

SECTION 1.24. Effective January 1, 2026, the following provisions of the Government Code are repealed:

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

## ARTICLE 2. STATUTORY COUNTY COURTS

SECTION 2.01. Section 22.004(h-1), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

(c) In addition to other jurisdiction provided by law, a

1 statutory county court exercising civil jurisdiction concurrent  
2 with the constitutional jurisdiction of the county court has  
3 concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:

4 (1) civil cases in which the matter in controversy  
5 exceeds \$500 but does not exceed \$325,000 [~~\$250,000~~], excluding  
6 interest, statutory or punitive damages and penalties, and  
7 attorney's fees and costs, as alleged on the face of the petition;  
8 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           (A) directly to the treasury by the Office of  
2 Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System for fees paid  
3 using the electronic filing system established under Section  
4 72.031; or

5           (B) to the comptroller in the manner provided by  
6 Subchapter B, Chapter 133, Local Government Code, for fees paid to  
7 an officer of a court; and

8           (2) the sum of the amount paid under Section  
9 25.0022(e) and the total amounts paid to the counties under Section  
10 25.00211.

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

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

23       (f) Each county pays annually to the presiding judge, from  
24 fees allocated to the judicial education and support fund under  
25 [collected pursuant to] Section 135.102 [118.052(2)(A)(vi)], Local  
26 Government Code, the amount of the salary apportioned [to it] as  
27 provided by this section and the other expenses authorized by this

1 section. The presiding judge shall place each county's payment of  
2 salary and other expenses in an administrative fund, from which the  
3 salary and other expenses are paid. The salary shall be paid in  
4 equal monthly installments.

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

7 (b) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at  
8 law in felony cases, in family law cases and proceedings, and in  
9 civil cases in which the matter in controversy exceeds \$325,000  
10 [~~\$250,000~~]. The county clerk serves as clerk of a county court at  
11 law in all other cases. The district clerk shall establish a  
12 separate docket for a county court at law. The commissioners court  
13 shall provide the deputy clerks, bailiffs, and other personnel  
14 necessary to operate a county court at law.

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

18 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section  
19 25.0003 and other law, and except as limited by Subsection (b), a  
20 county court at law in Atascosa County has concurrent jurisdiction  
21 with the district court in:

- 22 (1) Class A and Class B misdemeanor cases;
- 23 (2) family law matters;
- 24 (3) juvenile matters;
- 25 (4) probate matters; ~~and~~
- 26 (5) appeals from the justice and municipal courts; and
- 27 (6) civil cases in which the matter in controversy

1 exceeds the maximum amount provided by Section 25.0003 but does not  
2 exceed \$1 million, excluding interest, statutory or punitive  
3 damages and penalties, and attorney's fees and costs, as alleged on  
4 the face of the petition, including:

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

7 (B) a suit for the enforcement of a lien on real  
8 property;

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

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

13 (c-1) In addition to other assignments provided by law, a  
14 judge of the county court at law in Atascosa County is subject to  
15 assignment under Chapter 74 to any district court in Atascosa  
16 County. A county court at law judge assigned to a district court  
17 may hear any matter pending in the district court.

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

25 (b) Section 25.0092(a), Government Code, as amended by this  
26 section, applies only to a case filed or proceeding commenced on or  
27 after the effective date of this Act. A case filed or proceeding

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

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

7 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section  
8 25.0003 and other law and except as limited by Subsection (b), a  
9 county court at law in Bowie County has, concurrent with the  
10 district court, the jurisdiction provided by the constitution and  
11 by general law for district courts, including concurrent  
12 jurisdiction in:

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

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

- 19 (1) felony criminal matters;  
20 (2) suits on behalf of the state to recover penalties  
21 or escheated property;  
22 (3) misdemeanors involving official misconduct;  
23 (4) contested elections; or  
24 (5) civil cases in which the matter in controversy  
25 exceeds the amount provided in Section 25.0003 [~~\$200,000~~],  
26 excluding interest, statutory or punitive damages and penalties,  
27 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 salary set by the judge of the county court at law and approved by the commissioners court ~~[reporter's salary]~~.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) The County Civil Court at Law No. 5 of Harris County is created on September 1, 2025.

SECTION 2.10. (a) Effective January 1, 2027, 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 January 1, 2027:

(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.

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~~



1 ~~the page of the petition]~~.

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

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

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

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

18 (b) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section  
19 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in Tom Green County has  
20 concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in family law cases  
21 and proceedings.

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

24 (b) All misdemeanor cases, probate and mental health  
25 matters, proceedings under the Estates Code, and appeals from  
26 municipal courts of record shall be filed in the county court at  
27 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; and

(3) 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~~

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

(e) On the motion of any party, a county court at law may transfer a civil case originally filed in a county court at law that

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

9 SECTION 2.15. Section 25.2704(a), Government Code, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section  
12 25.0003 and other law, the 2nd Multicounty Court at Law has  
13 concurrent jurisdiction with the district courts, including  
14 [~~except~~] in civil cases in which the matter in controversy exceeds  
15 the maximum amount provided by Section 25.0003(c)(1).

16 SECTION 2.16. (a) Sections 25.0212(d) and 25.1723(c),  
17 Government Code, are repealed.

18 (b) Section 25.1723(c), Government Code, as repealed by  
19 this section, applies only to an action filed on or after September  
20 1, 2025. An action filed before that date is governed by the law in  
21 effect immediately before that date, and that law is continued in  
22 effect for that purpose.

23 SECTION 2.17. Sections 25.0003(c), 25.0007(c), and  
24 25.0062(b), Government Code, as amended by this article, apply only  
25 to a civil case filed in a statutory county court on or after  
26 September 1, 2025. A civil case filed in a statutory county court  
27 before that date is governed by the law in effect immediately before

1 that date, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
2 purpose.

3 SECTION 2.18. Section 25.00212, Government Code, as amended  
4 by this article, applies to amounts deposited in the judicial fund  
5 under Section 133.151(c)(1), Local Government Code, from fees  
6 collected by a statutory probate court before, on, or after  
7 September 1, 2025.

8 SECTION 2.19. Section 25.2282, Government Code, as amended  
9 by this article, applies only to a case filed or proceeding  
10 commenced on or after September 1, 2025. A case filed or proceeding  
11 commenced before that date is governed by the law in effect on the  
12 date the action was filed, and the former law is continued in effect  
13 for that purpose.

14 SECTION 2.20. Section 25.2452, Government Code, as amended  
15 by this article, applies only to an action filed in a county court  
16 at law in Wichita County on or after September 1, 2025. An action  
17 filed in a county court at law in Wichita County before that date is  
18 governed by the law in effect on the date the action was filed, and  
19 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

20 SECTION 2.21. Section 25.2704(a), Government Code, as  
21 amended by this article, applies only to a case filed or proceeding  
22 commenced on or after September 1, 2025. A case filed or proceeding  
23 commenced before that date is governed by the law in effect on the  
24 date the case was filed or the proceeding was commenced, and the  
25 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

26 ARTICLE 3. VISITING JUDGES

27 SECTION 3.01. Section 25.0022, Government Code, is amended

1 by amending Subsections (d), (h), (k), (o), (t), (u), and (w) and  
2 adding Subsection (k-1) to read as follows:

3 (d) The presiding judge shall:

4 (1) ensure the promulgation of local rules of  
5 administration in accordance with policies and guidelines set by  
6 the supreme court;

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

9 (3) perform a duty of a local administrative statutory  
10 probate court judge if the local administrative judge does not  
11 perform that duty;

12 (4) appoint an assistant presiding judge of the  
13 statutory probate courts;

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

17 (6) call and convene other meetings of the judges of  
18 the statutory probate courts as considered necessary by the  
19 presiding judge to promote the orderly and efficient administration  
20 of justice in the statutory probate courts;

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

24 (8) compare local rules of court to achieve uniformity  
25 of rules to the extent practical and consistent with local  
26 conditions;

27 (9) assign or order the clerk who serves the statutory

1 probate courts to randomly assign a judge or former or retired judge  
2 of a statutory probate court or a former or retired justice of an  
3 appellate court to hear a case under Section 25.002201(a) or  
4 25.00255, as applicable; and

5 (10) require the local administrative judge for  
6 statutory probate courts in a county to ensure that all statutory  
7 probate courts in the county comply with Chapter 37.

8 (h) Subject to Section 25.002201, a judge or a former or  
9 retired judge of a statutory probate court or a former or retired  
10 justice of an appellate court may be assigned by the presiding judge  
11 of the statutory probate courts to hold court in a statutory probate  
12 court, a county court, or any statutory court exercising probate  
13 jurisdiction when:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           (7) a county court judge requests the assignment of a  
2 statutory probate judge to hear a probate matter in the county  
3 court; or

4           (8) a local administrative statutory probate court  
5 judge requests the assignment of a statutory probate judge to hear a  
6 matter in a statutory probate court.

7           (k) Except as provided by Subsection (k-1), the ~~[The]~~ daily  
8 compensation of a former or retired judge or justice for purposes of  
9 this section is set at an amount equal to the daily compensation of  
10 a judge of a statutory probate court in the county in which the  
11 former or retired judge or justice is assigned. A former or retired  
12 judge or justice assigned to a county that does not have a statutory  
13 probate court shall be paid an amount equal to the daily  
14 compensation of a judge of a statutory probate court in the county  
15 where the assigned judge or justice was last elected.

16           (k-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (k), a former or retired  
17 judge or justice assigned under this section to a statutory probate  
18 court in a county located in the Texas-Mexico border region, as  
19 defined by Section 2056.002(e), is entitled to compensation from  
20 the state in an amount equal to the maximum salary a district judge  
21 may receive from county and state sources under Section 659.012(a)  
22 if the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region in  
23 which the county lies certifies that exigent circumstances require  
24 the assignment and money has been appropriated specifically for  
25 that purpose.

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

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

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

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

9                 (1) not have been removed from office;

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

12                 (A) the judge or justice has not been publicly  
13 reprimanded or censured by the State Commission on Judicial  
14 Conduct; and

15                 (B) the judge or justice:

16                         (i) did not resign or retire from office  
17 after the State Commission on Judicial Conduct notified the judge  
18 or justice of the commencement of a full investigation into an  
19 allegation or appearance of misconduct or disability of the judge  
20 or justice as provided in Section 33.022 and before the final  
21 disposition of that investigation; or

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

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



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

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

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

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

(2) accept appointment as a guardian ad litem, guardian of the estate of an incapacitated person, or guardian of the person of an incapacitated person in any court in the judge's or justice's county of residence for a period of two years.

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

SECTION 3.02. Section 25.002201, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 25.002201. ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGE ON RECUSAL OR DISQUALIFICATION. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), not later than the 15th day after the date an order of recusal or disqualification of a statutory probate court judge is issued in a case, the presiding judge shall assign a statutory probate court

1 judge or a former or retired judge of a statutory probate court or a  
2 former or retired justice of an appellate court to hear the case if:

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

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

7 (3) the order was issued under Section  
8 25.00255(i-3)(1); or

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

12 (b) If the judge who is the subject of an order of recusal or  
13 disqualification is the presiding judge of the statutory probate  
14 courts, the chief justice of the supreme court shall assign a  
15 statutory probate judge, ~~or~~ a former or retired judge of a  
16 statutory probate court, or a former or retired justice of an  
17 appellate court to hear the case.

18 SECTION 3.03. Section 25.00255, Government Code, is amended  
19 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (b) and (c) to  
20 read as follows:

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

26 (1) has the authority and shall perform the functions  
27 and duties of the presiding judge of the administrative judicial

1 region under the rules, including the duty to hear or rule on a  
2 referred motion of recusal or disqualification or, subject to  
3 Subdivisions (2) and (3), assign a judge to hear and rule on a  
4 referred motion of recusal or disqualification;

5 (2) may assign a presiding judge of the administrative  
6 judicial region to hear and rule on a referred motion of recusal or  
7 disqualification only with the consent of the presiding judge of  
8 the administrative judicial region;

9 (3) may not assign a judge of a statutory probate court  
10 located in the same county as the statutory probate court served by  
11 the judge who is the subject of the motion of recusal or  
12 disqualification; and

13 (4) if the presiding judge is the subject of the motion  
14 of recusal or disqualification, shall sign and file with the clerk  
15 an order referring the motion to the chief justice of the supreme  
16 court for assignment of a presiding judge of an administrative  
17 judicial region, a statutory probate court judge, ~~or~~ a former or  
18 retired judge of a statutory probate court, or a former or retired  
19 justice of an appellate court to hear and rule on the motion,  
20 subject to Subdivisions (2) and (3).

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

26 (c) A motion of recusal or disqualification that does not  
27 comply with Rule 18a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, is a motion or

1 disqualification for the purpose of determining whether a tertiary  
2 recusal motion has been filed under Section 25.00256, regardless of  
3 whether the motion was amended after filing.

4 SECTION 3.04. Section 74.003(e), Government Code, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (e) A retired justice or judge assigned as provided by this  
7 section is entitled to receive, pro rata for the time serving on  
8 assignment, from money appropriated from the general revenue fund  
9 for that purpose, an amount equal to the compensation received from  
10 state and county sources by a justice of the court of appeals to  
11 which assigned. A former justice or judge assigned as provided by  
12 this section is entitled to receive, pro rata for the time serving  
13 on assignment, from money appropriated from the general revenue  
14 fund for that purpose, an amount equal to the compensation from the  
15 state received by a justice of the court of appeals to which  
16 assigned, and from county sources, an amount equal to the  
17 compensation received from county sources by a justice of the court  
18 of appeals to which assigned. For purposes of determining the  
19 amount to be paid to a former or retired justice or judge under this  
20 subsection, the compensation received from the state by a justice  
21 of the court of appeals to which the retired justice or judge is  
22 assigned is the amount equal to the state ~~[base]~~ salary paid to a  
23 justice of that court of appeals with eight years of service ~~[as set~~  
24 ~~by the General Appropriations Act]~~ in accordance with Section  
25 659.012(b)(2) ~~[659.012(a)]~~.

26 SECTION 3.05. Section 74.046(b), Government Code, is  
27 amended to read as follows:

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

SECTION 3.06. Section 74.059, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

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

SECTION 3.07. Sections 74.061(h) and (i), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(h) Notwithstanding Subsection (c), the salary from the state of a retired judge or justice assigned to a district court is determined pro rata based on the sum of the regular judge's salary from the county plus the amount of the state ~~base~~ salary paid to a district judge with eight years of service ~~[as set by the General~~

~~Appropriations Act]~~ in accordance with Section 659.012(b)(2)  
~~[659.012(a)]~~.

(i) Notwithstanding Subsection (d), the salary from the state of a former judge or justice assigned to a district court is determined pro rata based on the amount of the state ~~[base]~~ salary paid to a district judge with eight years of service ~~[as set by the General Appropriations Act]~~ in accordance with Section 659.012(b)(2) ~~[659.012(a)]~~.

ARTICLE 4. MASTERS, MAGISTRATES, REFEREES, AND ASSOCIATE JUDGES

SECTION 4.01. Article 2A.151, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

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

(1) a justice of the supreme court;

(2) a judge of the court of criminal appeals;

(3) a justice of the courts of appeals;

(4) a judge of a district court;

(5) an associate judge appointed by:

(A) a judge of a district court or a statutory county court that gives preference to criminal cases in Jefferson County;

(B) a judge of a district court or a statutory county court of Brazos County, Nueces County, or Williamson County;  
~~[or]~~

(C) a judge of a district court under Chapter 54A, Government Code; or

(D) a judge of a district court under Subchapter

B, Chapter 54B, Government Code;

(6) a criminal magistrate appointed by:

(A) the Bell County Commissioners Court;

(B) the Brazoria County Commissioners Court; or

(C) [~~(B)~~] the Burnet County Commissioners Court;

(7) a criminal law hearing officer for:

(A) Harris County appointed under Subchapter L,  
Chapter 54, Government Code; or

(B) Cameron County appointed under Subchapter  
BB, Chapter 54, Government Code;

(8) a magistrate appointed:

(A) by a judge of a district court of Bexar  
County, Dallas County, or Tarrant County that gives preference to  
criminal cases;

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

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

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

(E) [~~(D)~~] by the El Paso Council of Judges;

(F) [~~(E)~~] by the Fort Bend County Commissioners  
Court;

(G) [~~(F)~~] by the Collin County Commissioners  
Court; or

(H) [~~(G)~~] under Subchapter JJ, Chapter 54,

Government Code;

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

(10) a county judge;

(11) a judge of:

(A) a statutory county court;

(B) a county criminal court; or

(C) a statutory probate court;

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

(13) a justice of the peace; and

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

SECTION 4.02. Chapter 54, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter A to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 54.001. QUALIFICATIONS. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) or another provision of this chapter and in addition to any other qualification required by law, a master, magistrate, referee, or associate judge appointed under this chapter must have been licensed to practice law in this state for at least five years before the date of appointment.

(b) A master, magistrate, referee, or associate judge appointed under the following provisions of this chapter must have been licensed to practice law in this state for at least two years before the date of appointment:



- (1) Section 54.991;
- (2) Section 54.1231;
- (3) Section 54.1501;
- (4) Section 54.1851;
- (5) Section 54.2001;
- (6) Section 54.2301; or
- (7) Section 54.2802.

SECTION 4.03. Chapter 54, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter EE to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER EE. BELL COUNTY CRIMINAL MAGISTRATES

Sec. 54.1601. APPOINTMENT. (a) The Commissioners Court of Bell County may select magistrates to serve the courts of Bell County having jurisdiction in criminal matters.

(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 another provision of this chapter, to be eligible for appointment under this subchapter, a person must have been licensed to practice law in this state and in good standing with the State Bar of Texas for at least two years.

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

Sec. 54.1602. JURISDICTION. A magistrate has concurrent criminal jurisdiction with the judges of the justice of the peace courts of Bell County.

Sec. 54.1603. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The Commissioners Court of Bell County shall establish the powers and duties of a

1 magistrate appointed under this subchapter. Except as otherwise  
2 provided by the commissioners court, a magistrate has the powers of  
3 a magistrate under the Code of Criminal Procedure and other laws of  
4 this state and may administer an oath for any purpose.

5 (b) A magistrate shall give preference to performing the  
6 duties of a magistrate under Article 15.17, Code of Criminal  
7 Procedure.

8 (c) The commissioners court may designate one or more  
9 magistrates to hold regular hearings to:

- 10 (1) give admonishments;  
11 (2) set and review bail and conditions of release;  
12 (3) appoint legal counsel; and  
13 (4) determine other routine matters relating to  
14 preindictment or pending cases within those courts' jurisdiction.

15 (d) In the hearings provided under Subsection (c), a  
16 magistrate shall give preference to the case of an individual held  
17 in county jail.

18 (e) A magistrate may inquire into a defendant's intended  
19 plea to the charge and set the case for an appropriate hearing  
20 before a judge or master.

21 Sec. 54.1604. JUDICIAL IMMUNITY. A magistrate has the same  
22 judicial immunity as a district judge.

23 Sec. 54.1605. WITNESSES. (a) A witness who is sworn and  
24 who appears before a magistrate is subject to the penalties for  
25 perjury and aggravated perjury provided by law.

26 (b) A referring court may fine or imprison a witness or  
27 other court participant for failure to appear after being summoned,

1 refusal to answer questions, or other acts of direct contempt  
2 before a magistrate.

3 SECTION 4.04. Section 54.302, Government Code, is amended  
4 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 54.302. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for  
6 appointment as a magistrate, a person must[+  
7 [~~(1)~~] be a resident of this state[~~, and~~  
8 [~~(2)~~ have been licensed to practice law in this state  
9 ~~for at least four years~~].

10 SECTION 4.05. Section 54.652, Government Code, is amended  
11 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 54.652. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for  
13 appointment as a magistrate, a person must[+  
14 [~~(1)~~] be a resident of this state[~~, and~~  
15 [~~(2)~~ have been licensed to practice law in this state  
16 ~~for at least four years~~].

17 SECTION 4.06. Section 54.802, Government Code, is amended  
18 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 54.802. QUALIFICATIONS. A master must[+  
20 [~~(1)~~] be a citizen and resident of this state[~~, and~~  
21 [~~(2)~~ have been licensed to practice law in this state  
22 ~~for at least four years~~].

23 SECTION 4.07. Section 54.853, Government Code, is amended  
24 to read as follows:

25 Sec. 54.853. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for  
26 appointment as a criminal law hearing officer under this  
27 subchapter, a person must:

(1) be a resident of this state and the county;

(2) ~~[have been licensed to practice law in this state for at least four years];~~

~~[(3)]~~ not have been defeated for reelection to a judicial office;

(3) ~~[(4)]~~ not have been removed from office by impeachment, by the supreme court, by the governor on address to the legislature, by a tribunal reviewing a recommendation of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, or by the legislature's abolition of the judge's court; and

(4) ~~[(5)]~~ not have resigned from office after having received notice that formal proceedings by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct had been instituted as provided in Section 33.022 and before the final disposition of the proceedings.

SECTION 4.08. Section 54.872, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 54.872. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for appointment as a magistrate, a person must~~+~~

~~[(1)]~~ be a resident of this state~~+, and~~

~~[(2)] have been licensed to practice law in this state for at least four years].~~

SECTION 4.09. Section 54.902, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 54.902. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for appointment as a magistrate, a person must~~+~~

~~[(1)]~~ be a resident of this state~~+, and~~

~~[(2)] have been licensed to practice law in this state~~

1 ~~for at least four years~~].

2 SECTION 4.10. Section 54.972, Government Code, is amended  
3 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 54.972. QUALIFICATIONS. A magistrate must~~+~~

5 ~~[(1)]~~ be a resident of this state and of Travis  
6 County~~+, and~~

7 ~~[(2)] have been licensed to practice law in this state~~  
8 ~~for at least four years~~].

9 SECTION 4.11. Section 54.1173, Government Code, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 54.1173. QUALIFICATIONS. A magistrate must:

12 (1) be a citizen of this state; and

13 (2) be at least 25 years of age~~+, and~~

14 ~~[(3)] have been licensed to practice law in this state~~  
15 ~~for at least four years preceding the date of appointment~~].

16 SECTION 4.12. Section 54.1353, Government Code, is amended  
17 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 54.1353. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for  
19 appointment as a criminal law hearing officer under this  
20 subchapter, a person must:

21 (1) be a resident of Cameron County;

22 (2) be eligible to vote in this state and in Cameron  
23 County;

24 (3) be at least 30 years of age; and

25 (4) ~~[be a licensed attorney with at least four years'~~  
26 ~~experience, and~~

27 ~~[(5)]~~ have the other qualifications required by the

1 board.

2 SECTION 4.13. Section 54.1501(b), Government Code, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (b) The commissioners court shall establish the minimum  
5 qualifications, salary, benefits, and other compensation of each  
6 magistrate position and shall determine whether the position is  
7 full-time or part-time. ~~[The qualifications must require the~~  
8 ~~magistrate to:~~

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

11 ~~[(2) be an attorney licensed in this state.]~~

12 SECTION 4.14. Section 54.1804, Government Code, is amended  
13 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 54.1804. QUALIFICATIONS. A magistrate must~~+~~

15 ~~[(1)]~~ be a resident of this state and of the county in  
16 which the magistrate is appointed to serve under this subchapter~~+~~  
17 ~~and~~

18 ~~[(2) have been licensed to practice law in this state~~  
19 ~~for at least four years].~~

20 SECTION 4.15. Section 54.1851(b), Government Code, is  
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (b) The commissioners court shall establish the minimum  
23 qualifications, salary, benefits, and other compensation of each  
24 magistrate position and shall determine whether the position is  
25 full-time or part-time. ~~[The qualifications must require the~~  
26 ~~magistrate to have served as a justice of the peace or be an~~  
27 ~~attorney licensed in this state.]~~

SECTION 4.16. Section 54.1953, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 54.1953. QUALIFICATIONS. A magistrate must:

- (1) be a citizen of this state; and
- (2) have resided in the county for at least six months before the date of the appointment[~~, and~~
- ~~[(3) have:~~
- ~~[(A) served as a justice of the peace for at least four years before the date of appointment; or~~
- ~~[(B) been licensed to practice law in this state for at least four years before the date of appointment].~~

SECTION 4.17. Section 54.2202(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible for appointment as a magistrate, a person must:

- (1) be a citizen of the United States; and
- (2) have resided in Collin County for at least the four years preceding the person's appointment[~~, and~~
- ~~[(3) have been licensed to practice law in this state for at least four years].~~

SECTION 4.18. Section 54.2402(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible for appointment as a magistrate, a person must:

- (1) be a citizen of the United States; and
- (2) have resided in Fort Bend County for at least the four years preceding the person's appointment[~~, and~~

1           ~~[(3) have been licensed to practice law in this state~~  
2 ~~for at least four years].~~

3           SECTION 4.19. Section 54.2602, Government Code, is amended  
4 to read as follows:

5           Sec. 54.2602. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for  
6 appointment as a magistrate, a person must~~+~~

7           ~~[(1)] be a resident of this state~~+~~ and~~  
8           ~~[(2) have been licensed to practice law in this state~~  
9 ~~for at least four years].~~

10          SECTION 4.20. Section 54.2702(a), Government Code, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12          (a) To be eligible for appointment as a magistrate, a person  
13 must be a resident of this state ~~[and+~~

14           ~~[(1) have served as a justice of the peace or municipal~~  
15 ~~court judge for at least four years before the date of appointment,~~  
16 ~~or~~

17           ~~[(2) have been licensed to practice law in this state~~  
18 ~~for at least four years before the date of appointment].~~

19          SECTION 4.21. Section 54.2802(a), Government Code, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21          (a) The district court judges with jurisdiction in Denton  
22 County and the judges of the criminal statutory county courts of  
23 Denton County shall appoint one or more judges to preside over the  
24 criminal law magistrate court. An appointed judge must:

25           (1) serve Denton County as a district court judge, a  
26 criminal statutory county court judge, an associate judge of a  
27 court with criminal jurisdiction, a magistrate, including a jail



1 magistrate, a judge of a municipal court of record, or a justice of  
2 the peace;

3           (2) ~~[be a licensed attorney in good standing with the~~  
4 ~~State Bar of Texas,~~

5           ~~[(3)]~~ be authorized to access criminal history records  
6 under state and federal law;

7           (3) ~~[(4)]~~ have completed training necessary to serve  
8 as a magistrate in Denton County, as determined by the district  
9 court judges with jurisdiction in Denton County and the judges of  
10 the criminal statutory county courts of Denton County; and

11           (4) ~~[(5)]~~ meet the qualifications under Section  
12 54.2807.

13           SECTION 4.22. Section 54.2807, Government Code, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15           Sec. 54.2807. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for  
16 appointment as the criminal law magistrate court associate judge, a  
17 jail magistrate, or another magistrate in the criminal law  
18 magistrate court, a person must~~[-~~

19           ~~[(1)]~~ have been a resident of Denton County for at  
20 least two years preceding the person's appointment~~[-and~~

21           ~~[(2) have been licensed to practice law in this state~~  
22 ~~for at least four years]~~.

23           SECTION 4.23. Section 54A.003, Government Code, is amended  
24 to read as follows:

25           Sec. 54A.003. QUALIFICATIONS. To qualify for appointment  
26 as an associate judge under this subchapter, a person must:

27           (1) be a resident of this state and one of the counties

1 the person will serve;

2 (2) have been licensed to practice law in this state  
3 for at least five [~~four~~] years;

4 (3) not have been removed from office by impeachment,  
5 by the supreme court, by the governor on address to the legislature,  
6 by a tribunal reviewing a recommendation of the State Commission on  
7 Judicial Conduct, or by the legislature's abolition of the judge's  
8 court; and

9 (4) not have resigned from office after having  
10 received notice that formal proceedings by the State Commission on  
11 Judicial Conduct had been instituted as provided by Section 33.022  
12 and before final disposition of the proceedings.

13 SECTION 4.24. Section 54A.103, Government Code, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 54A.103. QUALIFICATIONS. To qualify for appointment  
16 as an associate judge under this subchapter, a person must:

17 (1) be a resident of this state and one of the counties  
18 the person will serve;

19 (2) have been licensed to practice law in this state  
20 for at least five [~~four~~] years;

21 (3) not have been removed from office by impeachment,  
22 by the supreme court, by the governor on address to the legislature,  
23 by a tribunal reviewing a recommendation of the State Commission on  
24 Judicial Conduct, or by the legislature's abolition of the judge's  
25 court; and

26 (4) not have resigned from office after having  
27 received notice that formal proceedings by the State Commission on

Judicial Conduct had been instituted as provided in Section 33.022 and before final disposition of the proceedings.

SECTION 4.25. Section 54A.305(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible for appointment as an associate judge under this subchapter, a person must:

(1) be a citizen of the United States;

(2) be a resident of this state for the two years preceding the date of appointment; and

(3) be:

(A) eligible for assignment under Section 74.054 because the person is named on the list of retired and former judges maintained by the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region under Section 74.055;

(B) eligible for assignment under Section 25.0022 by the presiding judge of the statutory probate courts; or

(C) licensed to practice law in this state for at least five years and have at least four years of experience in guardianship proceedings or protective services proceedings before the date of appointment as a practicing attorney in this state or a judge of a court in this state.

SECTION 4.26. 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

1 criminal associate judge to perform the duties authorized by this  
2 subchapter if the commissioners court of the county in which the  
3 court has jurisdiction has authorized the creation of an associate  
4 judge position.

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

8 (c) If more than one court in a county is subject to this  
9 subchapter, the commissioners court may authorize the appointment  
10 of an associate judge for each court or may authorize one or more  
11 associate judges to share service with two or more courts.

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

16 Sec. 54B.032. APPLICABILITY. Except as provided by Section  
17 54B.033, Subchapter A, Chapter 54A applies to a criminal associate  
18 judge appointed under this subchapter.

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

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

24 (2) a bond forfeiture, remittitur, and related  
25 proceedings;

26 (3) a pretrial motion;

27 (4) a writ of habeas corpus;

- 1           (5) an examining trial;
- 2           (6) an occupational driver's license;
- 3           (7) a petition for an order of expunction under  
4 Chapter 55A, Code of Criminal Procedure;
- 5           (8) an asset forfeiture hearing as provided by Chapter  
6 59, Code of Criminal Procedure;
- 7           (9) a petition for an order of nondisclosure of  
8 criminal history record information or an order of nondisclosure of  
9 criminal history record information that does not require a  
10 petition provided by Subchapter E-1, Chapter 411;
- 11           (10) a motion to modify or revoke community  
12 supervision or to proceed with an adjudication of guilty;
- 13           (11) setting conditions, modifying, revoking, and  
14 surrendering of bonds, including surety bonds;
- 15           (12) specialty court proceedings;
- 16           (13) a waiver of extradition; and
- 17           (14) any other matter the judge considers necessary  
18 and proper.

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

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

27           (d) A criminal associate judge may select a jury. A

1 criminal associate judge may not preside over a criminal trial on  
2 the merits, whether or not the trial is before a jury.

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

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

9 SECTION 4.27. The changes in law made by this article apply  
10 only to a master, magistrate, referee, or associate judge appointed  
11 under Chapter 54 or 54A, Government Code, as amended by this  
12 article, on or after September 1, 2025. A master, magistrate,  
13 referee, or associate judge appointed before that date is governed  
14 by the law in effect on the date the master, magistrate, referee, or  
15 associate judge was appointed, and the former law is continued in  
16 effect for that purpose.

17 ARTICLE 5. BUSINESS COURT

18 SECTION 5.01. Section 659.012, Government Code, is amended  
19 by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

20 (a-1) In addition to the annual base salary from the state  
21 prescribed by Subsection (a), a judge of a division of the business  
22 court is entitled to an additional annual salary from the state in  
23 an amount equal to the difference between the judge's annual base  
24 salary from the state and the maximum combined base salary from all  
25 state and county sources paid to a district judge under Subsection  
26 (a).

ARTICLE 6. JURORS

SECTION 6.01. Article 19A.051(c), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The judge shall test the qualifications for and exemptions [~~excuses~~] from service as a grand juror and impanel the completed grand jury as provided by this chapter.

SECTION 6.02. The heading to Subchapter C, Chapter 19A, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER C. GRAND JUROR QUALIFICATIONS; EXEMPTIONS [~~EXCUSES~~]  
FROM SERVICE

SECTION 6.03. Article 19A.101, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 19A.101. GRAND JUROR QUALIFICATIONS; LISTS OF DISQUALIFIED PERSONS. (a) A person may be selected or serve as a grand juror only if the person:

- (1) is at least 18 years of age;
- (2) is a citizen of the United States;
- (3) is a resident of this state and of the county in which the person is to serve;
- (4) is qualified under the constitution and other laws to vote in the county in which the grand jury is sitting, regardless of whether the person is registered to vote;
- (5) is of sound mind and good moral character;
- (6) is able to read and write;
- (7) has never been convicted of misdemeanor theft [~~or a felony~~];
- (8) has never been convicted of a felony;

1           (9) is not under indictment or other legal accusation  
2 for misdemeanor theft or a felony;

3           (10) [~~(9)~~] is not related within the third degree by  
4 consanguinity or second degree by affinity, as determined under  
5 Chapter 573, Government Code, to any person selected to serve or  
6 serving on the same grand jury;

7           (11) [~~(10)~~] has not served as a grand juror in the year  
8 before the date on which the term of court for which the person has  
9 been selected as a grand juror begins; and

10           (12) [~~(11)~~] is not a complainant in any matter to be  
11 heard by the grand jury during the term of court for which the  
12 person has been selected as a grand juror.

13           (b) On the third business day of each month, the clerk of the  
14 district court shall prepare:

15           (1) a list of persons who in the preceding month were  
16 disqualified from serving as a grand juror based on the person's  
17 citizenship [~~or indictment or conviction for misdemeanor theft or a~~  
18 ~~felony~~] and send a copy of the list to:

19                   (A) [~~(1)~~] the secretary of state;

20                   (B) the voter registrar for the county in which  
21 the grand jury is sitting; and

22                   (C) [~~(2)~~] the prosecuting attorney for the court  
23 to which the grand jurors were summoned for investigation into  
24 whether any person made a false claim concerning the person's  
25 qualification under Subsection (a)(2);

26           (2) a list of persons who in the preceding month were  
27 disqualified from serving as a grand juror based on the person's



1 residency and send a copy of the list to:

2 (A) the secretary of state; and

3 (B) the voter registrar for the county in which  
4 the grand jury is sitting;

5 (3) a list of persons who in the preceding month were  
6 disqualified from serving as a grand juror based on the person's  
7 conviction for a felony and send a copy of the list to:

8 (A) the secretary of state;

9 (B) the voter registrar for the county in which  
10 the grand jury is sitting; and

11 (C) the prosecuting attorney for the court to  
12 which the grand jurors were summoned for investigation into whether  
13 any person made a false claim concerning the person's qualification  
14 under Subsection (a)(8); and

15 (4) a list of persons who in the preceding month were  
16 disqualified from serving as a grand juror based on the person's  
17 indictment for a felony or indictment or conviction for misdemeanor  
18 theft and send a copy of the list to:

19 (A) the secretary of state; and

20 (B) the prosecuting attorney for the court to  
21 which the grand jurors were summoned for investigation into whether  
22 any person made a false claim concerning the person's qualification  
23 under Subsection (a)(7) or (9) [~~7~~(7), ~~or~~ (8)].

24 SECTION 6.04. Article 19A.105, Code of Criminal Procedure,  
25 is amended to read as follows:

26 Art. 19A.105. EXCUSE AND EXEMPTION [~~EXCUSES~~] FROM GRAND  
27 JURY SERVICE. (a) The court shall excuse from serving any

1 summoned person who does not possess the requisite qualifications  
2 or who claims an exemption to which the person is entitled.

3 (b) The following qualified persons may be exempted  
4 [excused] from grand jury service:

5 (1) a person who is 75 years of age or older [~~than 70~~  
6 ~~years of age~~];

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

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

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

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

15 SECTION 6.05. Subchapter C, Chapter 19A, Code of Criminal  
16 Procedure, is amended by adding Articles 19A.106 and 19A.107 to  
17 read as follows:

18 Art. 19A.106. PERMANENT EXEMPTION FOR ELDERLY. (a) A  
19 person who is entitled to exemption from grand jury service because  
20 the person is 75 years of age or older may establish a permanent  
21 exemption on that ground as provided by this article.

22 (b) A person may claim a permanent exemption by filing with  
23 the district clerk or the clerk of a district court in the county,  
24 through an electronic transmission, mail, or personal delivery, a  
25 signed statement affirming the person is 75 years of age or older  
26 and desires a permanent exemption on that ground.

27 (c) The district clerk shall maintain a current register of

1 the name of each person who resides in the county and who has  
2 claimed and is entitled to a permanent exemption from grand jury  
3 service because the person is 75 years of age or older.

4 (d) On the third business day of each month, the district  
5 clerk shall prepare a list of persons who in the preceding month  
6 were permanently exempted from serving as a grand juror under this  
7 article or who rescinded a permanent exemption under Subsection (f)  
8 and send a copy of the list to the secretary of state.

9 (e) A person whose name appears on the register of persons  
10 permanently exempted from serving as a grand juror under this  
11 article may not be selected or summoned for grand jury service by  
12 any district judge in the county.

13 (f) A person who has claimed a permanent exemption from jury  
14 service under this article may rescind the exemption at any time by  
15 filing a signed request for the rescission with the district clerk  
16 or the clerk of a district court in the county. Rescission of a  
17 permanent exemption does not affect the right of a person who is 75  
18 years of age or older to claim a permanent exemption at a later  
19 time.

20 Art. 19A.107. LIST OF DISQUALIFIED CONVICTED PERSONS. (a)  
21 The district clerk shall maintain a list of the name and address of  
22 each person who is disqualified under this subchapter from grand  
23 jury service because the person was convicted of misdemeanor theft  
24 or a felony.

25 (b) A person who was convicted of misdemeanor theft or a  
26 felony is permanently disqualified from serving as a juror.

27 (c) A person whose name appears on the list maintained under

this article may not be selected or summoned for grand jury service by any judge of a district court served by the clerk.

(d) On the third business day of each month, the district clerk shall send a copy of the list maintained under this article to:

(1) the secretary of state; and

(2) the prosecuting attorney for the court to which the grand jurors were summoned for investigation into whether any person made a false claim concerning the person's qualification under Article 19A.101(a)(7) or (8).

(e) On the third business day of each month, the district clerk shall prepare a list of the name and address of each person on the list maintained under this article disqualified from grand jury service because the person was convicted of a felony and send a copy of the list to the voter registrar for the county in which the grand jury is sitting.

SECTION 6.06. Sections 62.001(a) and (b), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The jury wheel must be reconstituted by using, as the source:

(1) the names of all persons on the current voter registration lists from all the precincts in the county; and

(2) all names on a current list to be furnished by the Department of Public Safety, showing the citizens of the county who:

(A) hold a valid Texas driver's license or a valid personal identification card or certificate issued by the

1 department; and

2 (B) are not disqualified from jury service under  
3 Section 62.102(1), (2), (3), (7), or (8).

4 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the names of persons  
5 listed on a register of persons exempt from jury service may not be  
6 placed in the jury wheel, as provided by Sections 62.108 and~~[7]~~  
7 62.109~~[, 62.113, 62.114, and 62.115]~~.

8 SECTION 6.07. Section 62.0132(g), Government Code, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (g) The information contained in a completed questionnaire  
11 may be disclosed to:

12 (1) a judge assigned to hear a cause of action in which  
13 the respondent to the questionnaire is a potential juror;

14 (2) court personnel;

15 (3) a litigant and a litigant's attorney in a cause of  
16 action in which the respondent to the questionnaire is a potential  
17 juror; and

18 (4) other than information provided that is related to  
19 Section 62.102(2), (3), (7), (8), or (9) ~~[62.102(8) or (9)]~~, the  
20 voter registrar of a county in connection with any matter of voter  
21 registration or the administration of elections.

22 SECTION 6.08. Section 62.102, Government Code, is amended  
23 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 62.102. GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR JURY SERVICE. A  
25 person is disqualified to serve as a petit juror unless the person:

26 (1) is at least 18 years of age;

27 (2) is a citizen of the United States;

1           (3) is a resident of this state and of the county in  
2 which the person is to serve as a juror;

3           (4) is qualified under the constitution and laws to  
4 vote in the county in which the person is to serve as a juror;

5           (5) is of sound mind and good moral character;

6           (6) is able to read and write;

7           (7) ~~[has not served as a petit juror for six days~~  
8 ~~during the preceding three months in the county court or during the~~  
9 ~~preceding six months in the district court;~~

10           ~~[(8)]~~ has not been convicted of misdemeanor theft ~~[or~~  
11 ~~a felony]~~;

12           (8) has not been convicted of a felony; [and]

13           (9) is not under indictment or other legal accusation  
14 for misdemeanor theft or a felony; and

15           (10) has not served as a petit juror for six days  
16 during the preceding three months in the county court or during the  
17 preceding six months in the district court.

18           SECTION 6.09. Section 62.106(a), Government Code, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20           (a) A person qualified to serve as a petit juror may  
21 establish an exemption from jury service if the person:

22           (1) is ~~[over]~~ 75 years of age or older;

23           (2) has legal custody of a child younger than 12 years  
24 of age and the person's service on the jury requires leaving the  
25 child without adequate supervision;

26           (3) is a student of a public or private secondary  
27 school;

1           (4) is a person enrolled and in actual attendance at an  
2 institution of higher education;

3           (5) is an officer or an employee of the senate, the  
4 house of representatives, or any department, commission, board,  
5 office, or other agency in the legislative branch of state  
6 government;

7           (6) is summoned for service in a county with a  
8 population of at least 200,000, unless that county uses a jury plan  
9 under Section 62.011 and the period authorized under Section  
10 62.011(b)(5) exceeds two years, and the person has served as a petit  
11 juror in the county during the 24-month period preceding the date  
12 the person is to appear for jury service;

13           (7) is the primary caretaker of a person who is unable  
14 to care for himself or herself;

15           (8) except as provided by Subsection (b), is summoned  
16 for service in a county with a population of at least 250,000 and  
17 the person has served as a petit juror in the county during the  
18 three-year period preceding the date the person is to appear for  
19 jury service; or

20           (9) is a member of the United States military forces  
21 serving on active duty and deployed to a location away from the  
22 person's home station and out of the person's county of residence.

23       SECTION 6.10. Section 62.107(c), Government Code, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

25       (c) A person who files a statement with a clerk of the court,  
26 as provided by Subsection (a), claiming an exemption because the  
27 person is [~~over~~] 75 years of age or older, may also claim the

1 permanent exemption on that ground authorized by Section 62.108 by  
 2 including in the statement filed with the clerk a declaration that  
 3 the person desires the permanent exemption. The [~~Promptly after a~~  
 4 ~~statement claiming a permanent exemption on the basis of age is~~  
 5 ~~filed, the~~] clerk of the court with whom the declaration [~~it~~] is  
 6 filed shall notify the secretary of state [~~have a copy delivered to~~  
 7 ~~the voter registrar of the county~~].

8 SECTION 6.11. Section 62.108, Government Code, is amended  
 9 by amending Subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) and adding  
 10 Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

11 (a) A person who is entitled to exemption from jury service  
 12 because the person is [~~over~~] 75 years of age or older may establish  
 13 a permanent exemption on that ground as provided by this section or  
 14 Section 62.107.

15 (b) A person may claim a permanent exemption:

16 (1) by filing with the district clerk [~~voter~~  
 17 ~~registrar~~] of the county, by mail or personal delivery, a signed  
 18 statement affirming that the person is [~~over~~] 75 years of age or  
 19 older and desires a permanent exemption on that ground; or

20 (2) in the manner provided by Section 62.107(c).

21 (c) The district clerk [~~voter registrar~~] of the county shall  
 22 maintain a current register indicating the name of each person who  
 23 has claimed and is entitled to a permanent exemption from jury  
 24 service because the person is [~~over~~] 75 years of age or older.

25 (c-1) On the third business day of each month, the district  
 26 clerk shall prepare a list of persons who in the preceding month  
 27 claimed and were entitled to a permanent exemption under this



1 section or who rescinded an exemption under Subsection (e) and send  
2 a copy of the list to the secretary of state.

3 (e) A person who has claimed a permanent exemption from jury  
4 service because the person is [~~over~~] 75 years of age or older may  
5 rescind the exemption at any time by filing a signed request for the  
6 rescission with the voter registrar of the county. Rescission of a  
7 permanent exemption does not affect the right of a person who is  
8 [~~over~~] 75 years of age or older to claim permanent exemption at a  
9 later time.

10 SECTION 6.12. Section 62.109, Government Code, is amended  
11 by amending Subsections (a), (b), (d), and (e) and adding  
12 Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

13 (a) The judge of a district court or the district clerk [~~by~~  
14 ~~order~~] may permanently or for a specified period exempt from  
15 service as a juror in all the county and district courts in the  
16 county a person with a physical or mental impairment or with an  
17 inability to comprehend or communicate in the English language that  
18 makes it impossible or very difficult for the person to serve on a  
19 jury.

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

1        (b-1) The district clerk shall maintain a current list  
2 indicating the name of each person permanently or temporarily  
3 exempt under this section and the period of the exemption.

4        (d) A person included on the list maintained under  
5 Subsection (b-1) [~~listed on the register~~] may not be summoned for  
6 jury service during the period for which the person is exempt. The  
7 name of a person included on the list maintained under Subsection  
8 (b-1) [~~listed on the register~~] may not be placed in the jury wheel  
9 or otherwise used in preparing the record of names from which a jury  
10 list is selected during the period for which the person is exempt.

11        (e) A person exempt from jury service under this section may  
12 rescind the exemption at any time by filing a signed request for the  
13 rescission with the district clerk [~~voter registrar~~] of the county.

14        SECTION 6.13. Sections 62.113(a) and (b), Government Code,  
15 are amended to read as follows:

16        (a) The clerk of the court shall maintain a list of the name  
17 and address of each person who is [~~excused or~~] disqualified under  
18 this subchapter from jury service because the person is not a  
19 citizen of the United States.

20        (b) On the third business day of each month, the clerk shall  
21 send a copy of the list of persons [~~excused or~~] disqualified because  
22 of citizenship in the previous month to:

- 23                (1) the voter registrar of the county;
- 24                (2) the secretary of state; and
- 25                (3) the county or district attorney for an
- 26 investigation of whether the person committed an offense under
- 27 Section 13.007, Election Code, or other law.

SECTION 6.14. Sections 62.114(a) and (b), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The clerk of the court shall maintain a list containing the name and address of each person who is ~~[excused or]~~ disqualified under this subchapter from jury service because the person is not a resident of the county.

(b) On the third business day of each month, the clerk shall send a copy of the list of persons ~~[excused or]~~ disqualified in the previous month because the persons do not reside in the county to:

(1) the voter registrar of the county; and

(2) the secretary of state.

SECTION 6.15. Section 62.115, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (c) and (d) and adding Subsection (d-1) to read as follows:

(c) The district clerk shall ~~[may]~~ remove from the jury wheel the jury wheel card for the person whose name appears on the list.

(d) On the third business day of each month, the clerk shall send ~~[to the secretary of state]~~ a copy of the list of persons disqualified because of a conviction of misdemeanor theft or a felony to:

(1) the secretary of state; and

(2) the prosecuting attorney for a court to which a person was summoned for investigation into whether the person falsely made a claim related to a disqualification under Section 62.102(7) or (8) [in the preceding month].

(d-1) On the third business day of each month, the clerk of

1 the court shall prepare a list of the name and address of each  
2 person on the list maintained under this section disqualified from  
3 jury service because the person was convicted of a felony and send a  
4 copy of the list to the voter registrar for the county.

5 SECTION 6.16. The changes in law made by this article apply  
6 only to a person who is summoned to appear for service on a grand  
7 jury or petit jury on or after September 1, 2025. A person who is  
8 summoned to appear for service on a grand jury or petit jury before  
9 that date is governed by the law in effect on the date the person was  
10 summoned, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
11 purpose.

12 ARTICLE 7. COURT ADMINISTRATION

13 SECTION 7.01. Section 22.110, Government Code, is amended  
14 by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

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

21 SECTION 7.02. Section 22.216(n-2), Government Code, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 (n-2) Notwithstanding Subsection (n-1), the Court of  
24 Appeals for the Fifteenth Court of Appeals District consists of a  
25 chief justice and of two justices holding places numbered  
26 consecutively beginning with Place 2 for the first three years  
27 following the court's creation. Place 4 shall be created and the

1 initial vacancy in that place shall be filled for the fourth year  
2 following the court's creation. Place 5 shall be created and the  
3 initial vacancy in that place shall be filled for the fifth year  
4 following the court's creation. This subsection expires September  
5 1, 2029 [2027].

6 SECTION 7.03. Section 22.220, Government Code, is amended  
7 by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

8 (e) A party may not file a notice of appeal in a civil case  
9 requesting assignment of the appeal to the Court of Appeals for the  
10 Fifteenth Court of Appeals District unless the notice includes a  
11 matter arising out of or related to the case that is within the  
12 court's exclusive intermediate appellate jurisdiction.

13 SECTION 7.04. Section 51.303, Government Code, is amended  
14 by amending Subsections (b) and (f) and adding Subsection (d) to  
15 read as follows:

16 (b) The clerk of a district court shall:

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

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

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

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

24 (d) Paper records must include a reference opposite each  
25 name to the minutes on which is entered the judgment in the case.

26 (f) A case with an electronic record must be searchable by  
27 each party's full name, the case number, and the date on which the

1 record was made [~~In addition to the other powers and duties of this~~  
2 ~~section, a district clerk shall accept applications for protective~~  
3 ~~orders under Chapter 71, Family Code]~~.

4 SECTION 7.05. Section 51.903(d), Government Code, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

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

9 SECTION 7.06. Section 53.001(a), Government Code, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (a) The judges of the 30th, 70th, 71st, 78th, 89th, and  
12 161st [~~, and 341st~~] district courts, the judges of the district  
13 courts having jurisdiction in Taylor County, the judges of the  
14 county courts at law of Taylor County, and the judge of the County  
15 Court of Harrison County shall each appoint a bailiff.

16 SECTION 7.07. Section 57.002(d), Government Code, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 (d) Subject to Subsection (e), in a county with a population  
19 of 50,000 or more, a court may appoint a spoken language interpreter  
20 who is not a certified or licensed court interpreter:

21 (1) if:

22 (A) [~~(1)~~] the language necessary in the  
23 proceeding is a language other than Spanish; and

24 (B) [~~(2)~~] the court makes a finding that there is  
25 no licensed court interpreter within 75 miles who can interpret in  
26 the language that is necessary in a proceeding; or

27 (2) if the court is a justice court, municipal court,

1 or municipal court of record.

2 SECTION 7.08. Subchapter C, Chapter 71, Government Code, is  
3 amended by adding Section 71.0354 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 71.0354. PROSECUTING ATTORNEY INFORMATION. (a) In  
5 this section, "prosecuting attorney" means a county attorney,  
6 district attorney, or criminal district attorney representing this  
7 state in criminal matters before the district or other courts of the  
8 county.

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

11 (1) the categories of criminal offenses prosecuted by  
12 the prosecuting attorney and the number of criminal cases in each  
13 category;

14 (2) the number of personnel employed by the  
15 prosecuting attorney and whether that number is sufficient to  
16 support the prosecutor's caseload;

17 (3) the number of times a defendant was released as  
18 provided by Article 17.151, Code of Criminal Procedure; and

19 (4) the number of electronic notices submitted by the  
20 prosecuting attorney to a court as required by Article  
21 17.027(a)(2), Code of Criminal Procedure.

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

25 (1) the Texas District and County Attorneys  
26 Association; and

27 (2) other interested persons.

SECTION 7.09. Section 72.015(c), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The judicial security division shall:

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

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

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

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

SECTION 7.10. 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, 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 7.11. 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 7.12. Section 74.051(c), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) A presiding judge ~~[who is a retired or former district judge or a retired appellate judge and who presides over an administrative region with 30 or more district courts, statutory county courts, and retired and former judges named on the list maintained under Section 74.055 for the administrative region]~~ is entitled to an annual salary for each fiscal year, based on the number of district courts, business courts, and statutory county courts in the administrative region, the number of associate judges appointed by the presiding judge under Chapter 201, Family Code, and the number of retired and former judges named on the list maintained under Section 74.055 for the administrative region, in an amount equal to:

Number of Courts and Judges	Salary
<del>[30 to]</del> 49 <u>or fewer</u>	<u>50</u> <del>[30]</del> percent of the state base salary paid to a district judge as set by the General Appropriations Act in accordance with Section 659.012(a)

1 50 to 69 55 ~~[35]~~ percent of the state base  
2 salary paid to a district judge  
3 as set by the General  
4 Appropriations Act in accordance  
5 with Section 659.012(a)  
6 70 to 89 60 ~~[40]~~ percent of the state base  
7 salary paid to a district judge  
8 as set by the General  
9 Appropriations Act in accordance  
10 with Section 659.012(a)  
11 90 or more 65 ~~[45]~~ percent of the state base  
12 salary paid to a district judge  
13 as set by the General  
14 Appropriations Act in accordance  
15 with Section 659.012(a)

16 SECTION 7.13. Section 74.091, Government Code, is amended  
17 by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as  
18 follows:

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

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

27 (b-1) The local administrative district judge may not be

1 elected on the basis of rotation or seniority.

2       SECTION 7.14. Section 74.092, Government Code, is amended  
3 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as  
4 follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           (10) coordinate and cooperate with any other local  
2 administrative judge in the district in the assignment of cases in  
3 the courts' concurrent jurisdiction for the efficient operation of  
4 the court system and the effective administration of justice;

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

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

11           (13) establish a court security committee to adopt  
12 security policies and procedures for the trial courts served by the  
13 local administrative district judge, including by adopting a court  
14 emergency management plan, that is 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, including a justice of the peace and excluding the judge of  
24 ~~[other than]~~ a municipal court or a municipal court of record;

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

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

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

6           SECTION 7.15. Section 74.092(b), Government Code, is  
7 redesignated as Section 74.0922, Government Code, and amended to  
8 read as follows:

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

16           SECTION 7.16. Chapter 74, Government Code, is amended by  
17 adding Subchapter D-1 to read as follows:

18           SUBCHAPTER D-1. COURT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

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

- 24                   (1) court budgets and operational funding;  
25                   (2) court activity statistics and case-level  
26 information on the amount and character of the business transacted  
27 by the state trial courts;

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

2           (4) other matters related to court administration.

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

9           SECTION 7.17. Section 121.002(c), Government Code, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11           (c) Notwithstanding any other law, a specialty court  
12 program may not operate until the judge, magistrate, or  
13 coordinator:

14           (1) provides to the Office of Court Administration of  
15 the Texas Judicial System:

16                   (A) written notice of the program;

17                   (B) any resolution or other official declaration  
18 under which the program was established; and

19                   (C) a copy of the program policy manual,  
20 participant handbook, or other adopted documentation describing  
21 the operational plan of ~~[applicable strategic plan that~~  
22 ~~incorporates duties related to supervision that will be required~~  
23 ~~under]~~ the program; and

24           (2) receives from the office written verification of  
25 the program's compliance with Subdivision (1).

26           SECTION 7.18. Section 659.012, Government Code, is amended  
27 by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (d-1) to read as

1 follows:

2 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section or  
3 other law, ~~[in a county with more than five district courts,]~~ a  
4 district judge who serves as a local administrative district judge  
5 under Section 74.091 is entitled to an annual base salary from the  
6 state in the amount provided under Subsection (a) or (b) and an  
7 additional annual ~~[in the]~~ amount from the state equal to:

8 (1) in a county with three or four district courts,  
9 three percent of the annual base ~~[\$5,000 more than the maximum]~~  
10 salary for a judge of a district court ~~[from the state to which the~~  
11 ~~judge is otherwise entitled]~~ under Subsection (a);

12 (2) in a county with more than four but fewer than 10  
13 district courts, five percent of the annual base salary for a judge  
14 of a district court under Subsection (a); or

15 (3) in a county with 10 or more district courts, seven  
16 percent of the annual base salary for a judge of a district court  
17 under Subsection (a) ~~[or (b)]~~.

18 (d-1) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section  
19 or other law, a judge of a division of the business court who serves  
20 as administrative presiding judge under Section 25A.009 is entitled  
21 to an annual base salary from the state in the amount provided under  
22 Subsection (a) or (b) and an additional annual amount equal to the  
23 amount provided under Subsection (d)(3).

24 SECTION 7.19. Section 574.001(b), Health and Safety Code,  
25 is amended to read as follows:

26 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (f), the application  
27 must be filed with the county clerk in the county in which the

1 proposed patient:

2 (1) resides;

3 (2) is located at the time the application is filed ~~[is~~  
4 ~~found]~~; ~~[or]~~

5 (3) was apprehended under Chapter 573; or

6 (4) is receiving mental health services by court order  
7 or under Subchapter A, Chapter 573.

8 SECTION 7.20. Section 135.101(a), Local Government Code, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

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

13 (1) \$213 on filing any civil case except a probate,  
14 guardianship, or mental health case; and

15 (2) \$35 on any action other than an original action for  
16 a case subject to Subdivision (1), including ~~[an appeal and]~~ any  
17 counterclaim, cross-action, intervention, contempt action,  
18 interpleader, motion for new trial, motion to reinstate, or  
19 third-party action.

20 SECTION 7.21. Section 615.003(a), Local Government Code, is  
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (a) A county ~~[with a population of 150,000 or more]~~ may  
23 construct, enlarge, equip, and operate a parking lot or parking  
24 garage adjacent to or near the county courthouse.

25 SECTION 7.22. Sections 53.001(i), 53.009(d), and  
26 74.051(b), Government Code, are repealed.

27 SECTION 7.23. As soon as practicable after September 1,



1 2025, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals shall adopt the rules  
2 necessary to implement Section 22.110(b-1), Government Code, as  
3 added by this article.

4 SECTION 7.24. Section 22.220(e), Government Code, as added  
5 by this article, applies only to a notice of appeal filed on or  
6 after September 1, 2025. A notice of appeal filed before that date  
7 is governed by the law in effect on the date the notice was filed,  
8 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

9 SECTION 7.25. Section 53.001(a), Government Code, as  
10 amended by this article, does not apply to a bailiff appointed by  
11 the judge of the 341st or 406th district court before September 1,  
12 2025. A bailiff appointed by the judge of the 341st or 406th  
13 district court shall continue to serve and receive compensation  
14 from Webb County in the same manner as before that date and shall be  
15 eligible to receive any longevity or cost of living salary  
16 increases available to a bailiff serving in Webb County before that  
17 date. The former law is continued in effect for the purposes of  
18 this section.

19 SECTION 7.26. Not later than September 1, 2026, the Texas  
20 Judicial Council shall prescribe the information, and form and  
21 manner of submission, a prosecuting attorney in this state is  
22 required to report under Section 71.0354, Government Code, as added  
23 by this article.

24 SECTION 7.27. Section 74.091, Government Code, as amended  
25 by this article, applies only to a local administrative judge  
26 elected on or after September 1, 2025.

27 SECTION 7.28. The change in law made by this article to

Section 574.001, Health and Safety Code, applies only to an application for court-ordered mental health services submitted on or after September 1, 2025.

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

(B) the number of pages copied; and

(C) the date the copy was issued.

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

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

(1) on each page of the copy:

(A) the clerk's signature or initials;

(B) the applicable court's seal; or

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

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

4                   (A) the clerk's attestation certifying that the  
5 copy is a true and correct copy of the original document filed in  
6 the clerk's office;

7                   (B) the number of pages copied; and

8                   (C) the date the copy was issued.

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

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

14                   (1) on each page of the copy:

15                   (A) either:

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

17                               (ii) a unique document certification and  
18 paginated page number; and

19                   (B) either:

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

22                               (ii) the court seal on a copy of a court  
23 document; and

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

25                   (A) the clerk's attestation certifying that the  
26 copy is a true and correct copy of the original document filed in  
27 the clerk's office;

1                   (B) the number of pages copied; and

2                   (C) the date the copy was issued.

3                   ARTICLE 9. YOUTH DIVERSION

4           SECTION 9.01. Article 45A.253(b), Code of Criminal  
5 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

6           (b) A judge shall ~~[may]~~ allow a defendant who is a child, as  
7 defined by Article 45A.453(a), to elect at the time of conviction,  
8 as defined by Section 133.101, Local Government Code, to discharge  
9 the fine and costs by:

10                   (1) performing community service or receiving  
11 tutoring under Article 45A.460, regardless of whether the  
12 applicable offense occurred at a location specified by Subsection  
13 (a) of that article; or

14                   (2) paying the fine and costs in a manner described by  
15 Article 45A.251(b).

16           SECTION 9.02. (a) Chapter 45A, Code of Criminal Procedure,  
17 is amended to conform to Section 2, Chapter 525 (H.B. 3186), Acts of  
18 the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, and Chapter 1033 (S.B.  
19 24), Acts of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, and is  
20 further amended by adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

21                   SUBCHAPTER K. YOUTH DIVERSION

22           Art. 45A.501. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

23                   (1) "Charge" means a formal or informal allegation of  
24 an offense, including a citation, written promise to appear,  
25 complaint, or pending complaint.

26                   (2) "Child" has the meaning assigned by Article  
27 45A.453(a).

1           (3) "Court" means a justice court, municipal court, or  
2 other court subject to this chapter.

3           (4) "Diversion" means an intervention strategy that  
4 redirects a child from formal criminal prosecution and holds the  
5 child accountable for the child's actions. The term includes  
6 diversion under Article 45A.509 or 45A.510.

7           (5) "Offense" means a misdemeanor punishable by fine  
8 only, other than a traffic offense.

9           (6) "Parent" has the meaning assigned by Article  
10 45A.457(a).

11           (7) "Service provider" means a governmental agency,  
12 political subdivision, open-enrollment charter school, nonprofit  
13 organization, or other entity that provides services to children or  
14 families.

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

17           (9) "Youth diversion plan" means a plan adopted under  
18 Article 45A.506.

19           Art. 45A.502. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies only  
20 to a child who is alleged to have engaged in conduct that  
21 constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine only, other than a  
22 traffic offense.

23           Art. 45A.503. TRANSFER TO JUVENILE COURT NOT AFFECTED.  
24 Nothing in this subchapter precludes:

25           (1) a case involving a child from being referred,  
26 adjudicated, or disposed of as conduct indicating a need for  
27 supervision under Title 3, Family Code; or

1           (2) a waiver of criminal jurisdiction and transfer of  
2 a child's case as provided by Section 51.08, Family Code.

3           Art. 45A.504. DIVERSION ELIGIBILITY. (a) Except as  
4 otherwise provided by this subchapter, a child shall be diverted  
5 from formal criminal prosecution as provided by this subchapter.

6           (b) A child is eligible to enter into a diversion agreement  
7 under this subchapter only once every 12 months.

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

12           (c) A child is not eligible for diversion if the child has  
13 previously had an unsuccessful diversion under this subchapter.

14           (d) A child is not eligible for diversion if a diversion is  
15 objected to by the attorney representing the state.

16           (e) A court may not divert a child from criminal prosecution  
17 as provided by this subchapter without the written consent of the  
18 child and the child's parent.

19           Art. 45A.505. DIVERSION STRATEGIES. (a) Diversion  
20 strategies include:

21           (1) requiring a child to participate in a program,  
22 including:

23                   (A) a court-approved teen court program operated  
24 by a service provider;

25                   (B) a school-related program;

26                   (C) an educational program, including an alcohol  
27 awareness program, a tobacco awareness program, or a drug education

program;

(D) a rehabilitation program; or

(E) a self-improvement program, including a program relating to self-esteem, leadership, self-responsibility, empathy, parenting, parental responsibility, manners, violence avoidance, anger management, life skills, wellness, or dispute resolution;

(2) referring a child to a service provider for services, including:

(A) at-risk youth services under Subchapter D, Chapter 137, Human Resources Code;

(B) juvenile case manager services under Article 45A.451;

(C) work and job skills training, including job interviewing and work preparation;

(D) academic monitoring or tutoring, including preparation for a high school equivalency examination administered under Section 7.111, Education Code;

(E) community-based services;

(F) mental health screening and clinical assessment;

(G) counseling, including private or in-school counseling; or

(H) mentoring services;

(3) requiring a child to:

(A) participate in mediation or other dispute resolution processes;

(B) submit to alcohol or drug testing; or

(C) substantially comply with a course of treatment prescribed by a physician or other licensed medical or mental health professional; and

(4) requiring a child, by court order, to:

(A) pay restitution not to exceed \$100 for an offense against property under Title 7, Penal Code;

(B) perform not more than 20 hours of community service; or

(C) perform any other reasonable action determined by the court.

(b) A diversion strategy may be imposed under:

(1) an intermediate diversion under Article 45A.509;

(2) a diversion by a justice or judge under Article 45A.510; or

(3) a system of graduated sanctions for certain school offenses under Section 37.144, Education Code.

(c) A diversion strategy under this subchapter may not require a child who is a home-schooled student, as defined by Section 29.916, Education Code, to:

(1) attend an elementary or secondary school; or

(2) use an educational curriculum other than the curriculum selected by the parent.

Art. 45A.506. YOUTH DIVERSION PLAN. (a) A youth diversion plan is a written plan that describes the types of strategies that will be used to implement youth diversion. A youth diversion plan does not limit the types of diversion strategies that may be imposed



1 under a diversion agreement under Article 45A.508.

2 (b) Each justice and municipal court shall adopt a youth  
3 diversion plan.

4 (c) A youth diversion plan may be devised for a county or  
5 municipality or an individual court within a county or  
6 municipality.

7 (d) In accordance with Chapter 791, Government Code, a local  
8 government may enter into an agreement with one or more local  
9 governments to create a regional youth diversion plan and  
10 collaborate in the implementation of this subchapter.

11 (e) A youth diversion plan may include an agreement with a  
12 service provider to provide services for a diversion strategy.

13 (f) A youth diversion plan may contain guidelines for  
14 disposition or diversion of a child's case by law enforcement. The  
15 guidelines are not mandatory.

16 (g) A current youth diversion plan must be maintained on  
17 file for public inspection in each justice and municipal court,  
18 including courts that collaborate with one or more counties or  
19 municipalities.

20 (h) A court or local government may adopt rules necessary to  
21 coordinate services under a youth diversion plan or to implement  
22 this subchapter.

23 Art. 45A.507. YOUTH DIVERSION COORDINATOR. (a) A court may  
24 designate a youth diversion coordinator to assist the court in:

25 (1) determining whether a child is eligible for  
26 diversion;

27 (2) employing a diversion strategy authorized by this

1 subchapter;

2 (3) presenting and maintaining diversion agreements;

3 (4) monitoring diversions;

4 (5) maintaining records regarding whether one or more  
5 diversions were successful or unsuccessful; and

6 (6) coordinating referrals to court.

7 (b) The responsibilities of the youth diversion coordinator  
8 may be performed by:

9 (1) a court administrator or court clerk, or a person  
10 who regularly performs the duties of court administrator or court  
11 clerk;

12 (2) an individual or entity that provides juvenile  
13 case manager services under Article 45A.451;

14 (3) a court-related services office;

15 (4) a community supervision and corrections  
16 department, including a juvenile probation department;

17 (5) a county or municipal employee, including a peace  
18 officer;

19 (6) a community volunteer;

20 (7) an institution of higher education, including a  
21 public, private, or independent institution of higher education; or

22 (8) a qualified nonprofit organization as determined  
23 by the court.

24 Art. 45A.508. DIVERSION AGREEMENT. (a) A diversion  
25 agreement must identify the parties to the agreement and the  
26 responsibilities of the child and the child's parent to ensure  
27 their meaningful participation in a diversion under Article 45A.509

1 or 45A.510.

2 (b) Stated objectives in a diversion agreement must be  
3 measurable, realistic, and reasonable and consider the  
4 circumstances of the child, the best interests of the child, and the  
5 long-term safety of the community.

6 (c) A diversion agreement must include:

7 (1) the terms of the agreement, including one or more  
8 diversions required to be completed by the child, written in a clear  
9 and concise manner and identifying any offense or charge being  
10 diverted;

11 (2) possible outcomes or consequences of a successful  
12 diversion and an unsuccessful diversion;

13 (3) an explanation that participation in a diversion  
14 is not an admission of guilt and a guilty plea is not required to  
15 participate in a diversion;

16 (4) an explanation of the process that will be used for  
17 reviewing and monitoring compliance with the terms of the  
18 agreement;

19 (5) the period of the diversion;

20 (6) a verification that:

21 (A) the child and the child's parent were  
22 notified of the child's rights, including the right to refuse  
23 diversion; and

24 (B) the child knowingly and voluntarily consents  
25 to participate in the diversion; and

26 (7) written acknowledgment and acceptance of the  
27 agreement by the child and the child's parent.

1       (d) The terms of an agreement may vary depending on the  
2 circumstances of the child, including the child's age and ability,  
3 the charge being diverted, or the diversion strategy used.

4       (e) A charge may not be filed against a child or, if filed,  
5 shall be dismissed by the court if the child:

6           (1) does not contest the charge;

7           (2) is eligible for diversion under Article 45A.504;  
8 and

9           (3) accepts the terms of the agreement.

10       (f) Entering into a diversion agreement under this article  
11 extends the court's jurisdiction for the term of the agreement.

12       (g) On entering into a diversion agreement, a copy of the  
13 agreement shall be provided to the child and the child's parent, the  
14 clerk of the court, a youth diversion coordinator, and any person  
15 specified by the youth diversion plan.

16       Art. 45A.509. INTERMEDIATE DIVERSION. (a) If provided by a  
17 youth diversion plan, a youth diversion coordinator or juvenile  
18 case manager shall advise the child and the child's parent before a  
19 case is filed that the case may be diverted under this article for a  
20 reasonable period not to exceed 180 days if:

21           (1) the child is eligible for diversion under Article  
22 45A.504;

23           (2) diversion is in the best interests of the child and  
24 promotes the long-term safety of the community;

25           (3) the child and the child's parent consent to  
26 diversion with the knowledge that diversion is optional; and

27           (4) the child and the child's parent are informed that

1 they may terminate the diversion at any time and, if terminated, the  
2 case will be referred to court.

3 (b) The terms of a diversion agreement under this article  
4 must be in writing and may include any of the diversion strategies  
5 under Article 45A.505.

6 (c) The case of a child who successfully complies with the  
7 terms of a diversion agreement under this article shall be closed  
8 and reported as successful to the court.

9 (d) A child who does not comply with the terms of a diversion  
10 agreement under this article shall be referred to court under  
11 Article 45A.511.

12 Art. 45A.510. DIVERSION BY JUSTICE OR JUDGE. (a) If a  
13 charge involving a child who is eligible for diversion is filed with  
14 a court, and the child does not contest the charge, a justice or  
15 judge shall divert the case under this article without the child  
16 having to enter a plea.

17 (b) A diversion under this article may not exceed 180 days.

18 (c) The terms of a diversion agreement under this article  
19 must be in writing and may include any of the diversion strategies  
20 described by Article 45A.505.

21 (d) The case of a child who successfully complies with the  
22 terms of a diversion agreement under this article shall be closed  
23 and reported as successful to the court.

24 (e) A child who does not comply with the terms of a diversion  
25 agreement under this article shall be referred to court for a  
26 hearing under Article 45A.511.

27 Art. 45A.511. REFERRAL TO COURT. (a) A court shall conduct

1 a non-adversarial hearing for a child who does not successfully  
2 complete the terms of a diversion under Article 45A.509 or 45A.510  
3 and is referred to the court.

4 (b) The hearing is an opportunity for a justice or judge to  
5 confer with the child and the child's parent to determine whether a  
6 diversion should be declared unsuccessful by the court. The court  
7 may also hear from any person who may be of assistance to the child  
8 or the court in determining what is in the best interests of the  
9 child and the long-term safety of the community.

10 (c) After the hearing, a court may enter an order:

11 (1) amending or setting aside terms in the diversion  
12 agreement;

13 (2) extending the diversion for a period not to exceed  
14 one year from the initial start date of the diversion;

15 (3) issuing a continuance for the hearing for a period  
16 not to exceed 60 days to allow an opportunity for compliance with  
17 the terms of the diversion;

18 (4) subject to Subsection (d), requiring the child's  
19 parent to perform any act or refrain from performing any act as the  
20 court determines will increase the likelihood the child will  
21 successfully complete the diversion and comply with any other order  
22 of the court that is reasonable and necessary for the welfare of the  
23 child;

24 (5) finding the diversion successful on the basis of  
25 substantial compliance; or

26 (6) finding the diversion unsuccessful and:

27 (A) transferring the child to juvenile court for

1 alleged conduct indicating a need for supervision under Section  
2 51.08, Family Code; or

3 (B) referring the charge to the prosecutor for  
4 consideration of re-filing.

5 (d) An order under Subsection (c)(4) may not have the  
6 substantive effect of interfering with a parent's fundamental right  
7 to determine how to raise the parent's child, unless the court finds  
8 that the interference is necessary to prevent significant  
9 impairment of the child's physical, mental, or emotional health.

10 (e) An order under Subsection (c)(4) is enforceable against  
11 the parent by contempt.

12 (f) The statute of limitations in Article 12.02 is tolled  
13 during the diversion period for purposes of Subsection (c)(6)(B).

14 Art. 45A.512. LOCAL YOUTH DIVERSION ADMINISTRATIVE FEE.

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

18 (b) The fee under this article may not be collected unless  
19 specified as a term of the diversion agreement accepted by the  
20 child's parent. If the fee is not paid after giving the child's  
21 parent an opportunity to be heard, the court shall order the parent,  
22 if financially able, to pay the fee to the clerk of the court.

23 (c) A court shall waive the fee if the child's parent is  
24 indigent or does not have sufficient resources or income to pay the  
25 fee.

26 (d) A court may adopt rules for the waiver of a fee for  
27 financial hardship under this article.

1       (e) An order under Subsection (b) is enforceable against the  
2 parent by contempt.

3       (f) The clerk of the court shall keep a record of the fees  
4 collected under this article and shall forward the funds to the  
5 county treasurer, municipal treasurer, or person fulfilling the  
6 role of a county treasurer or municipal treasurer, as appropriate.

7       (g) The fee collected under this article shall be deposited  
8 in a special account that can be used only to offset the cost of the  
9 operations of youth diversion programs under this subchapter.

10       (h) Except for the fee authorized under Subsection (a), a  
11 fee may not be assessed for a child diverted under this subchapter.

12       (i) The diversion of a child may not be contingent on  
13 payment of a fee under this article.

14       Art. 45A.513. DIVERSION RECORDS. (a) A justice or  
15 municipal court shall maintain statistics for each diversion  
16 strategy authorized by this subchapter.

17       (b) Other than statistical records, all records generated  
18 under this subchapter are confidential under Article 45A.462.

19       (c) All records of a diversion pertaining to a child under  
20 this subchapter shall be expunged without the requirement of a  
21 motion or request, on the child's 18th birthday.

22       (b) Section 2, Chapter 525 (H.B. 3186), Acts of the 88th  
23 Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, which added Subchapter E,  
24 Chapter 45, Code of Criminal Procedure, is repealed.

25       (c) Section 4, Chapter 525 (H.B. 3186), Acts of the 88th  
26 Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, which amended Article 45.041,  
27 Code of Criminal Procedure, is repealed.



SECTION 9.03. 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:

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

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

SECTION 9.04. Section 42.0426(b), Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A residential child-care facility shall implement a behavior intervention program approved by the department for the benefit of a child served by the facility who needs assistance in

managing the child's conduct. The program must include:

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

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

SECTION 9.05. 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~~].

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

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

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

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

11        SECTION 9.06. Section 53.01(b-1), Family Code, as amended  
12 by this article, applies only to conduct that occurs on or after  
13 September 1, 2025. Conduct that occurs before September 1, 2025, is  
14 governed by the law in effect on the date the conduct occurred, and  
15 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For the  
16 purposes of this section, conduct occurred before September 1,  
17 2025, if any element of the conduct occurred before that date.

18            ARTICLE 10. JUVENILE BOARDS

19        SECTION 10.01. Section 152.0191(a), Human Resources Code,  
20 is amended to read as follows:

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

24        SECTION 10.02. Section 152.0521(a), Human Resources Code,  
25 is amended to read as follows:

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

27            (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 10.03. 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 10.04. 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 11. CIVIL CRIMINAL COURT PROCEDURES AND SECURITY

SECTION 11.01. Section 16.073, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 16.073. APPLICABILITY OF LIMITATIONS PERIODS TO ARBITRATION. A claim that is sought to be arbitrated is subject to

the same limitations period that would apply to the claim if the claim had been brought in court. Commencing an action asserting a claim by filing suit in a court of competent jurisdiction will toll the applicable limitations period for arbitration of the same claim. ~~[(a) A party may not assert a claim in an arbitration proceeding if the party could not bring suit for the claim in court due to the expiration of the applicable limitations period.]~~

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

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

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

SECTION 11.02. Sections 30.015(a) and (b), Civil Practice and Remedies Code, are amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

(b) Unless the party is the defendant in a tax suit, the ~~The~~ notice required by Subsection (a) may not be required from any party or party's attorney if the ~~such~~ party has not appeared or

1 answered in the civil action.

2 SECTION 11.03. Articles 45A.302(b), (c), and (d), Code of  
3 Criminal Procedure, are amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

16 SECTION 11.04. Article 102.017, Code of Criminal Procedure,  
17 is amended by adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

18 (e-1) In administering or directing funds under Subsection  
19 (e), a commissioners court shall prioritize the recommendations  
20 provided by a court security committee under Section 74.0922,  
21 Government Code, and the governing body of a municipality shall  
22 consider the recommendations provided by a court security committee  
23 under Sections 29.014(d) and 30.00007(c), Government Code.

24 ARTICLE 12. MUNICIPAL COURT PROVISIONS

25 SECTION 12.01. Section 29.014, Government Code, is amended  
26 by amending Subsections (c) and (d) and adding Subsection (e) to  
27 read as follows:

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

5 (d) A committee shall ~~may~~ recommend to the municipality  
6 the uses of resources and expenditures of money for courthouse  
7 security, but may not direct the assignment of those resources or  
8 the expenditure of those funds.

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

12 SECTION 12.02. Section 30.00007, Government Code, is  
13 amended by amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsection  
14 (d) to read as follows:

15 (b) The presiding judge shall:

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

19 (2) provide for the distribution of cases from the  
20 central docket to the individual municipal judges to equalize the  
21 distribution of business in the courts;

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

24 (4) temporarily assign judges or substitute judges to  
25 exchange benches and to act for each other in a proceeding pending  
26 in a court if necessary for the expeditious disposition of business  
27 in the courts;

1           (5) supervise and control the operation and clerical  
2 functions of the administrative department of each court, including  
3 the court's personnel, during the proceedings of the court; and

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

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

10                   (B) a representative of the law enforcement  
11 agency or other entity that provides the primary security for the  
12 court;

13                   (C) a representative of the municipality; and

14                   (D) any other person the committee determines  
15 necessary to assist the committee.

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

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

23           SECTION 12.03. Section 30.01014(d), Government Code, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

25           ~~(d) [In addition to satisfying the requirements of Section~~  
26 ~~30.00006(c), a municipal judge must maintain residence in the city~~  
27 ~~during the tenure of office and must be a resident of the city at the~~



~~time of appointment or election.]~~ The judge shall devote as much time to the office as it requires.

SECTION 12.04. Chapter 30, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter AAA to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER AAA. CANYON

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

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

SECTION 12.05. As soon as practicable after September 1, 2025, a court security committee shall develop a court emergency management plan as required by Section 29.014 or 30.00007, Government Code, as amended by this article.

ARTICLE 13. MISCELLANEOUS COURT, RECORD, CANDIDACY, AND ELECTION PROVISIONS

SECTION 13.01. The heading to Section 13.0021, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 13.0021. ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION FROM CERTAIN FEDERAL AND STATE JUDGES, FEDERAL OFFICIALS, CLERKS, GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES, AND FAMILY MEMBERS.

SECTION 13.02. Section 13.0021(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

1           (2)    [~~7~~] a state judge;

2           (3)    [~~7~~] a marshal of the United States Marshals  
3 Service;

4           (4)    [~~7~~] a United States attorney;

5           (5)    a current or former county clerk, district clerk,  
6 or county and district clerk, or a current or former employee of the  
7 office of a county clerk, district clerk, or county and district  
8 clerk;

9           (6)    a current or former employee whose duties relate  
10 to court administration, including a court clerk, court  
11 coordinator, court administrator, law clerk, or staff attorney;

12           (7)    a current or former employee of the Office of Court  
13 Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities  
14 administratively attached to the office; [~~7~~] or

15           (8)    a family member of a person listed in Subdivisions  
16 (1)-(7) [~~state judge, a federal judge, including a federal~~  
17 bankruptcy judge, a marshal of the United States Marshals Service,  
18 or a United States attorney, the registrar of the county shall omit  
19 the applicant's residence address from the registration list].

20           SECTION 13.03. Section 141.001(a), Election Code, is  
21 amended to read as follows:

22           (a) To be eligible to be a candidate for, or elected or  
23 appointed to, a public elective office in this state, a person must:

24               (1) be a United States citizen;

25               (2) be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the  
26 term to be filled at the election or on the date of appointment, as  
27 applicable;

(3) have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:

(A) totally mentally incapacitated; or

(B) partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote;

(4) have not been finally convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude from which the person has not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities;

(4-a) have not:

(A) had the person's license to practice law in this state revoked, suspended, or subject to a probated suspension;

(B) been found to be a vexatious litigant under Chapter 11, Civil Practice and Remedies Code; or

(C) had a final judgment entered against the person finding the person liable for legal malpractice;

(5) have resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the territory from which the office is elected for six months immediately preceding the following date:

(A) for a candidate whose name is to appear on a general primary election ballot, the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot;

(B) for an independent candidate, the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot;

(C) for a write-in candidate, the date of the election at which the candidate's name is written in;

(D) for a party nominee who is nominated by any method other than by primary election, the date the nomination is made; and

(E) for an appointee to an office, the date the appointment is made;

(6) on the date described by Subdivision (5), be registered to vote in the territory from which the office is elected; and

(7) satisfy any other eligibility requirements prescribed by law for the office.

SECTION 13.04. Subchapter A, Chapter 58, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 58.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 58.010. CONFIDENTIALITY OF WARRANTS OF ARREST. Notwithstanding Article 15.26, Code of Criminal Procedure, an arrest warrant issued for a child and a complaint or affidavit on which an arrest warrant issued for a child is based are confidential and may be disclosed only to the following:

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

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

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

(4) an attorney representing the child;

(5) a prosecuting attorney; or

(6) with permission from the juvenile court, another individual, agency, or institution with a legitimate interest in

1 the information or court.

2 SECTION 13.05. Section 301.052(a), Family Code, is amended  
3 to read as follows:

4 (a) A party may request disclosure under Section 301.051 of  
5 any or all of the following:

6 (1) the correct names of the parties to the action;

7 (2) the name, address, and telephone number of any  
8 potential parties;

9 (3) the legal theories and, in general, the factual  
10 bases of the responding party's claims or defenses;

11 (4) the amount and any method of calculating economic  
12 damages;

13 (5) the name, address, and telephone number of any  
14 person having knowledge of relevant facts and a brief statement of  
15 each identified person's connection with the action;

16 (6) for any testifying expert:

17 (A) the expert's name, address, and telephone  
18 number;

19 (B) the subject matter on which the expert will  
20 testify;

21 (C) the general substance of the expert's mental  
22 impressions and opinions and a brief summary of the basis for those  
23 impressions and opinions, or if the expert is not retained by,  
24 employed by, or otherwise subject to the control of the responding  
25 party, documents reflecting that information; and

26 (D) if the expert is retained by, employed by, or  
27 otherwise subject to the control of the responding party:

1 (i) all documents, tangible things,  
2 reports, models, or data compilations that have been provided to,  
3 reviewed by, or prepared by or for the expert in anticipation of the  
4 expert's testimony; and

5 (ii) the expert's current resume and  
6 biography;

7 (7) any discoverable settlement agreement described  
8 by Rule 192.3(g), Texas Rules of Civil Procedure;

9 (8) any discoverable witness statement [~~settlement~~]  
10 described by Rule 192.3(h), Texas Rules of Civil Procedure;

11 (9) in an action alleging physical or mental injury  
12 and damages from the occurrence that is the subject of the action:

13 (A) all medical records and bills that are  
14 reasonably related to the injuries or damages asserted; or

15 (B) an authorization permitting the disclosure  
16 of the information described by Paragraph (A);

17 (10) in an action alleging physical or mental injury  
18 and damages from the occurrence that is the subject of the action,  
19 all medical records and bills obtained by the responding party  
20 through an authorization provided by the requesting party; and

21 (11) the name, address, and telephone number of any  
22 person who may be designated as a responsible third party.

23 SECTION 13.06. Section 552.117, Government Code, is amended  
24 by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to  
25 read as follows:

26 (a) Information is excepted from the requirements of  
27 Section 552.021 if it is information that relates to the home

1 address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, or  
2 social security number of the following person or that reveals  
3 whether the person has family members:

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

6 (2) a current or honorably retired peace officer as  
7 defined by Article 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure, or a current  
8 or honorably retired security officer commissioned under Section  
9 51.212, Education Code, regardless of whether the officer complies  
10 with Section 552.024 or 552.1175, as applicable;

11 (3) a current or former employee of the Texas  
12 Department of Criminal Justice or of the predecessor in function of  
13 the department or any division of the department, regardless of  
14 whether the current or former employee complies with Section  
15 552.1175;

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

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

25 (6) an officer or employee of a community supervision  
26 and corrections department established under Chapter 76 who  
27 performs a duty described by Section 76.004(b), regardless of

1 whether the officer or employee complies with Section 552.024 or  
2 552.1175;

3 (7) a current or former employee of the office of the  
4 attorney general who is or was assigned to a division of that office  
5 the duties of which involve law enforcement or are performed under  
6 Chapter 231, Family Code, regardless of whether the current or  
7 former employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

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

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

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

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

26 (12) a current or former district attorney, criminal  
27 district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose



1 jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services  
2 matters, regardless of whether the current or former attorney  
3 complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14           (20) a current or former county clerk, district clerk,  
15 or county and district clerk, or a current or former employee of the  
16 office of a county clerk, district clerk, or county and district  
17 clerk, regardless of whether the current or former clerk or  
18 employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

19           (21) a current or former employee whose duties relate  
20 to court administration, including a court clerk, court  
21 coordinator, court administrator, law clerk, or staff attorney,  
22 regardless of whether the employee complies with Section 552.024 or  
23 552.1175; or

24           (22) a current or former employee of the Office of  
25 Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities  
26 administratively attached to the office, regardless of whether the  
27 employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175.

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

4           **(b-1) A county clerk or district clerk on request of a**  
5 **person to whom this section applies shall redact information**  
6 **described by Subsection (a) that relates to the person posted on an**  
7 **Internet website by:**

8                     **(1) the clerk; or**

9                     **(2) an entity with which the county contracts for the**  
10 **provision or maintenance of the Internet website.**

11           SECTION 13.07. Section 552.1175, Government Code, is  
12 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (e) and adding Subsection  
13 (e-1) to read as follows:

14           (a) This section applies only to:

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

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

21                     (3) current or former employees of the Texas  
22 Department of Criminal Justice or of the predecessor in function of  
23 the department or any division of the department;

24                     (4) commissioned security officers as defined by  
25 Section 1702.002, Occupations Code;

26                     (5) a current or former district attorney, criminal  
27 district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose

1 jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services  
2 matters;

3 (5-a) a current or former employee of a district  
4 attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal  
5 attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child  
6 protective services matters;

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

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

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

14 (9) current and former employees of the office of the  
15 attorney general who are or were assigned to a division of that  
16 office the duties of which involve law enforcement or are performed  
17 under Chapter 231, Family Code;

18 (10) current or former juvenile probation and  
19 detention officers certified by the Texas Juvenile Justice  
20 Department, or the predecessors in function of the department,  
21 under Title 12, Human Resources Code;

22 (11) current or former employees of a juvenile justice  
23 program or facility, as those terms are defined by Section 261.405,  
24 Family Code;

25 (12) current or former employees of the Texas Juvenile  
26 Justice Department or the predecessors in function of the  
27 department;

1           (13) federal judges and state judges as defined by  
2 Section 1.005, Election Code;

3           (14) current or former employees of the Texas Civil  
4 Commitment Office or of the predecessor in function of the office or  
5 a division of the office;

6           (15) a current or former member of the United States  
7 Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Marine Corps, an auxiliary  
8 service of one of those branches of the armed forces, or the Texas  
9 military forces, as that term is defined by Section 437.001;

10          (16) a current or former child protective services  
11 caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator  
12 for the Department of Family and Protective Services or a current or  
13 former employee of a department contractor performing child  
14 protective services caseworker, adult protective services  
15 caseworker, or investigator functions for the contractor on behalf  
16 of the department;

17          (17) an elected public officer;

18          (18) a firefighter or volunteer firefighter or  
19 emergency medical services personnel as defined by Section 773.003,  
20 Health and Safety Code; ~~and~~

21          (19) a current or former United States attorney,  
22 assistant United States attorney, federal public defender, deputy  
23 federal public defender, or assistant federal public defender;

24          (20) 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;

1           (21) a current or former employee whose duties relate  
2 to court administration, including a court clerk, court  
3 coordinator, court administrator, law clerk, or staff attorney; and

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

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

10          (e-1) A county clerk or district clerk on request of a  
11 person to whom this section applies shall redact information  
12 described by Subsection (b) that relates to the person from any  
13 document the clerk posts on an Internet website.

14          SECTION 13.08. Section 42.07(b), Penal Code, is amended by  
15 amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as  
16 follows:

17           (1) "Court employee" means an employee whose duties  
18 relate to court administration, including a court clerk, court  
19 coordinator, court administrator, law clerk, or staff attorney.  
20 The term does not include a judge.

21           (1-a) "Electronic communication" means a transfer of  
22 signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of  
23 any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio,  
24 electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photo-optical system. The  
25 term includes:

26                   (A) a communication initiated through the use of  
27 electronic mail, instant message, network call, a cellular or other

1 type of telephone, a computer, a camera, text message, a social  
2 media platform or application, an Internet website, any other  
3 Internet-based communication tool, or facsimile machine; and

4 (B) a communication made to a pager.

5 SECTION 13.09. Section 42.07(c), Penal Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (c) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor,  
8 except that the offense is:

9 (1) a Class A misdemeanor if:

10 (A) [~~(1)~~] the actor has previously been  
11 convicted under this section; [~~or~~]

12 (B) [~~(2)~~] the offense was committed under  
13 Subsection (a)(7) or (8) and:

14 (i) [~~(A)~~] the offense was committed against  
15 a child under 18 years of age with the intent that the child:

16 (a) [~~(i)~~] commit suicide; or

17 (b) [~~(ii)~~] engage in conduct causing  
18 serious bodily injury to the child; or

19 (ii) [~~(B)~~] the actor has previously  
20 violated a temporary restraining order or injunction issued under  
21 Chapter 129A, Civil Practice and Remedies Code; or

22 (C) the offense was committed against a person  
23 the actor knows is a court employee;

24 (2) a state jail felony if the offense was committed  
25 against a person the actor knows is:

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

1                   (B) a judge; and

2                   (3) a felony of the third degree if the offense was  
3 committed against a person the actor knows is a judge and the actor  
4 has previously been convicted under this section.

5           SECTION 13.10. Section 21.049, Property Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7           Sec. 21.049. NOTICE OF DECISION OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS.  
8 The judge of a court hearing a proceeding under this chapter shall  
9 inform the clerk of the court as to a decision by the special  
10 commissioners on the day the decision is filed or on the next  
11 working day after the day the decision is filed. Not later than the  
12 next working day after the day the decision is filed, the clerk  
13 shall send notice of the decision by a delivery method described  
14 under Rule 21a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure [~~certified or~~  
15 ~~registered United States mail, return receipt requested~~], to the  
16 parties in the proceeding, or to their attorneys of record, at their  
17 addresses of record.

18           SECTION 13.11. Section 25.025(a), Tax Code, as amended by  
19 Chapters 76 (S.B. 617), 152 (S.B. 870), 430 (H.B. 1911), 765 (H.B.  
20 4504), and 937 (S.B. 1525), Acts of the 88th Legislature, Regular  
21 Session, 2023, is reenacted and further amended to read as follows:

22           (a) This section applies only to:

23                   (1) a current or former peace officer as defined by  
24 Article 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure, and the spouse or  
25 surviving spouse of the peace officer;

26                   (2) the adult child of a current peace officer as  
27 defined by Article 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure;



1           (3) a current or honorably retired county jailer as  
2 defined by Section 1701.001, Occupations Code;

3           (4) an employee of the Texas Department of Criminal  
4 Justice;

5           (5) a commissioned security officer as defined by  
6 Section 1702.002, Occupations Code;

7           (6) an individual who shows that the individual, the  
8 individual's child, or another person in the individual's household  
9 is a victim of family violence as defined by Section 71.004, Family  
10 Code, by providing:

11           (A) a copy of a protective order issued under  
12 Chapter 85, Family Code, or a magistrate's order for emergency  
13 protection issued under Article 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure;  
14 or

15           (B) other independent documentary evidence  
16 necessary to show that the individual, the individual's child, or  
17 another person in the individual's household is a victim of family  
18 violence;

19           (7) an individual who shows that the individual, the  
20 individual's child, or another person in the individual's household  
21 is a victim of sexual assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking of  
22 persons by providing:

23           (A) a copy of a protective order issued under  
24 Subchapter A or B, Chapter 7B, Code of Criminal Procedure, or a  
25 magistrate's order for emergency protection issued under Article  
26 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure; or

27           (B) other independent documentary evidence

1 necessary to show that the individual, the individual's child, or  
2 another person in the individual's household is a victim of sexual  
3 assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking of persons;

4 (8) a participant in the address confidentiality  
5 program administered by the attorney general under Subchapter B,  
6 Chapter 58, Code of Criminal Procedure, who provides proof of  
7 certification under Article 58.059, Code of Criminal Procedure;

8 (9) a federal judge, a federal bankruptcy judge, a  
9 marshal of the United States Marshals Service, a state judge, or a  
10 family member of a federal judge, a federal bankruptcy judge, a  
11 marshal of the United States Marshals Service, or a state judge;

12 (10) a current or former district attorney, criminal  
13 district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose  
14 jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services  
15 matters;

16 (11) a current or former employee of a district  
17 attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal  
18 attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child  
19 protective services matters;

20 (12) an officer or employee of a community supervision  
21 and corrections department established under Chapter 76,  
22 Government Code, who performs a duty described by Section 76.004(b)  
23 of that code;

24 (13) a criminal investigator of the United States as  
25 described by Article 2A.002(a), Code of Criminal Procedure;

26 (14) a current or honorably retired police officer or  
27 inspector of the United States Federal Protective Service;

1           (15) a current or former United States attorney,  
2 assistant United States attorney, federal public defender, deputy  
3 federal public defender, or assistant federal public defender and  
4 the spouse and child of the attorney or public defender;

5           (16) a current or former employee of the office of the  
6 attorney general who is or was assigned to a division of that office  
7 the duties of which involve law enforcement or are performed under  
8 Chapter 231, Family Code;

9           (17) a medical examiner or person who performs  
10 forensic analysis or testing who is employed by this state or one or  
11 more political subdivisions of this state;

12           (18) a current or former member of the United States  
13 armed forces who has served in an area that the president of the  
14 United States by executive order designates for purposes of 26  
15 U.S.C. Section 112 as an area in which armed forces of the United  
16 States are or have engaged in combat;

17           (19) a current or former employee of the Texas  
18 Juvenile Justice Department or of the predecessors in function of  
19 the department;

20           (20) a current or former juvenile probation or  
21 supervision officer certified by the Texas Juvenile Justice  
22 Department, or the predecessors in function of the department,  
23 under Title 12, Human Resources Code;

24           (21) a current or former employee of a juvenile  
25 justice program or facility, as those terms are defined by Section  
26 261.405, Family Code;

27           (22) a current or former employee of the Texas Civil

1 Commitment Office or the predecessor in function of the office or a  
2 division of the office;

3 (23) a current or former employee of a federal judge or  
4 state judge;

5 (24) a current or former child protective services  
6 caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator  
7 for the Department of Family and Protective Services or a current or  
8 former employee of a department contractor performing child  
9 protective services caseworker, adult protective services  
10 caseworker, or investigator functions for the contractor on behalf  
11 of the department;

12 (25) an elected public officer;

13 (26) a firefighter or volunteer firefighter or  
14 emergency medical services personnel as defined by Section 773.003,  
15 Health and Safety Code;

16 (27) a customs and border protection officer or border  
17 patrol agent of United States Customs and Border Protection or the  
18 spouse, surviving spouse, or adult child of a customs and border  
19 protection officer or border patrol agent;

20 (28) [~~(27)~~ a current or former attorney for the  
21 ~~Department of Family and Protective Services~~]

22 [~~(27)~~] a current or former employee or contract staff  
23 member of a university health care provider at a corrections  
24 facility operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or  
25 the Texas Juvenile Justice Department;

26 (29) [~~and~~]

27 [~~(28)~~] a current or former attorney for the Department

of Family and Protective Services;

(30) 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;

(31) a current or former employee whose duties relate to court administration, including a court clerk, court coordinator, court administrator, law clerk, or staff attorney; and

(32) a current or former employee of the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities administratively attached to the office.

SECTION 13.12. Section 34.03(a), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The clerk of the court shall:

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

(A) states the amount of the excess proceeds;

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

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

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

(3) regardless of the amount, send to the attorney general notice of the deposit and amount of excess proceeds if the attorney general or a state agency represented by the attorney general is named as an in rem defendant in the underlying suit for seizure of the property or foreclosure of a tax lien on the property.

SECTION 13.13. Section 521.121, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

(a) The driver's license must include:

(1) a distinguishing number assigned by the department to the license holder;

(2) a photograph of the entire face of the holder;

(3) the full name and date of birth of the holder;

(4) a brief description of the holder; and

(5) the license holder's residence address or, for a license holder using the procedure under Subsection (c):

(A) [7] the street address of the courthouse in which the license holder or license holder's spouse or parent:

(i) serves as a federal judge, including a federal bankruptcy judge, a marshal of the United States Marshals Service, a United States attorney, or a state judge; or

(ii) performs duties related to court

1 administration, including a court clerk, court coordinator, court  
2 administrator, law clerk, or staff attorney; or

3 (B) the office address of the office in which the  
4 license holder or the license holder's spouse or parent performs  
5 duties as an employee of the office of a county clerk, district  
6 clerk, or county and district clerk, or of the Office of Court  
7 Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities  
8 administratively attached to the office.

9 (c) The department shall establish a procedure, on a license  
10 holder's qualification for or appointment to office as a federal or  
11 state judge as defined by Section 1.005, Election Code, or as a  
12 county clerk, district clerk, or county and district clerk, or as a  
13 federal bankruptcy judge, a marshal of the United States Marshals  
14 Service, ~~[or]~~ a United States attorney, or for a license holder  
15 whose duties relate to court administration, including a court  
16 clerk, court coordinator, court administrator, law clerk, or staff  
17 attorney, or as an employee of the office of a county clerk,  
18 district clerk, or county and district clerk, or of the Office of  
19 Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities  
20 administratively attached to the office, to omit the residence  
21 address of the judge, ~~[or]~~ official, or employee and any family  
22 member of the judge, ~~[or]~~ official, or employee on the license  
23 holder's license and to print ~~[include]~~, in lieu of that address,  
24 the street address of the courthouse or office building in which the  
25 license holder or license holder's spouse or parent serves as a  
26 federal or state judge, ~~[or]~~ official, or employee.

27 (c-1) The residence address of a license holder whose

1 residence address is omitted using the procedure under Subsection  
2 (c) is confidential and is available only for the official use of  
3 the department or a law enforcement agency.

4 SECTION 13.14. Section 521.243(a), Transportation Code, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

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

13 (1) an offense under Section 19.05 or Sections  
14 49.04-49.08, Penal Code; or

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

16 SECTION 13.15. Section 141.001(a), Election Code, as  
17 amended by this article, applies only to the eligibility  
18 requirements for a candidate or officer whose term of office will  
19 begin on or after September 1, 2025. The eligibility requirements  
20 for a candidate or officer whose term of office will begin before  
21 that date are governed by the law in effect immediately before that  
22 date, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

23 SECTION 13.16. Section 301.052(a), Family Code, as amended  
24 by this article, applies to an action that is pending in a trial  
25 court on September 1, 2025, or that is filed on or after that date.

26 SECTION 13.17. Section 42.07, Penal Code, as amended by  
27 this article, applies only to an offense committed on or after



1 September 1, 2025. An offense committed before that date is  
2 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,  
3 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
4 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before September  
5 1, 2025, if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

6 SECTION 13.18. Not later than November 1, 2026, the  
7 Department of Public Safety shall:

8 (1) review the department's processes for  
9 implementation of and compliance with Section 521.121,  
10 Transportation Code, as amended by this Act; and

11 (2) submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor,  
12 the speaker of the house of representatives, each member of the  
13 legislature, and the Texas Judicial Council a written report  
14 containing the results of the review, a description of the methods  
15 used to prepare the review, and any recommendations for legislative  
16 or other action.

17 ARTICLE 14. CONFLICT; EFFECTIVE DATE

18 SECTION 14.01. To the extent of any conflict, this Act  
19 prevails over another Act of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session,  
20 2025, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in  
21 enacted codes.

22 SECTION 14.02. Except as otherwise provided by a provision  
23 of this Act, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.