

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Austin, Texas

May 29, 2025
Date

Honorable Dan Patrick
President of the Senate

Honorable Dustin Burrows
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Sirs:

We, Your Conference Committee, appointed to adjust the differences between the Senate and the House of Representatives on SB 2878 have had the same under consideration, and beg to report it back with the recommendation that it do pass in the form and text hereto attached.

 Bryan Hughes	 Leach
 Brian Birdwell	 Dyson
 Brandon Crighton	 Johnson
 Juan Hinojosa	 Landgraf
 On the part of the Senate Phil King	 On the part of the House Moody

Note to Conference Committee Clerk:

Please type the names of the members of the Conference Committee under the lines provided for signature. Those members desiring to sign the report should sign each of the six copies. Attach a copy of the Conference Committee Report and a Section by Section side by side comparison to each of the six reporting forms. The original and two copies are filed in house of origin of the bill, and three copies in the other house.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

3rd Printing

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, constitutional amendment election challenges, mandatory expunction for certain persons, record retention, and youth diversion; increasing a criminal penalty; authorizing fees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) The 173rd District Court shall give preference to civil

1 and family law matters.

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

4 Sec. 24.451. 274TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (COMAL[~~7 GUADALUPE~~]
5 AND HAYS COUNTIES).

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

8 (a) The 274th Judicial District is composed of Comal[~~7~~
9 ~~Guadalupe~~7] and Hays counties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 SECTION 1.08. (a) Effective September 1, 2026, Subchapter
3 C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section
4 24.60035 to read as follows:

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

7 (b) The 490th Judicial District is created on September 1,
8 2026.

9 SECTION 1.09. (a) Effective September 1, 2026, Subchapter
10 C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section
11 24.60037 to read as follows:

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

15 (b) The 492nd Judicial District is created on September 1,
16 2026.

17 SECTION 1.10. Section 24.60043(d), Government Code, as
18 effective October 1, 2025, is amended to read as follows:

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

1 ~~for those matters]~~.

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

5 Sec. 24.60046. 501ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT (FORT BEND COUNTY).

6 The 501st Judicial District is composed of Fort Bend County.

7 Sec. 24.60047. 502ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT (FORT BEND COUNTY).

8 The 502nd Judicial District is composed of Fort Bend County.

9 (b) The 501st and 502nd Judicial Districts are created on
10 September 1, 2025.

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

13 Sec. 24.60048. 503RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT (ROCKWALL COUNTY).

14 The 503rd Judicial District is composed of Rockwall County.

15 (b) The 503rd Judicial District is created on September 1,
16 2025.

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

19 Sec. 24.60049. 504TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (ELLIS COUNTY). The

20 504th Judicial District is composed of Ellis County.

21 (b) The 504th Judicial District is created on September 1,
22 2025.

23 SECTION 1.14. (a) Effective September 1, 2026, Subchapter
24 C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section
25 24.60053 to read as follows:

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

27 511th Judicial District is composed of Comal County.

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

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

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

(b) The 512th Judicial District is created on September 1, 2025.

SECTION 1.16. (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 1.17. (a) Effective October 1, 2026, Subchapter C,

1 Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 24.60058
2 and 24.60059 to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 SECTION 1.21. (a) Effective January 1, 2029, Subchapter B,

1 Chapter 43, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 43.1742
2 to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 Sec. 43.1812. 365TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT. The voters of
27 Dimmit and Zavala Counties elect a district attorney for the 365th

1 Judicial District who represents the state in all civil and
2 criminal matters in the district courts having jurisdiction in
3 those counties.

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

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

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

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

14 (1) the district attorneys for Kenedy and Kleberg
15 Counties and for the 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 18th, 21st, 23rd, 24th,
16 26th, 27th, 29th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 38th, 39th,
17 42nd, 43rd, 46th, 47th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 63rd, 64th,
18 66th, 69th, 70th, 76th, 79th, 81st, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 88th, 90th,
19 97th, 100th, 105th, 106th, 109th, 110th, 112th, 118th, 119th,
20 123rd, 132nd, 142nd, 143rd, 145th, 156th, 159th, 173rd, 196th,
21 198th, 216th, 220th, 229th, 235th, 253rd, 258th, 259th, 266th,
22 268th, 271st, 273rd, 286th, 287th, 329th, 344th, 349th, 355th,
23 369th, 452nd, and 506th judicial districts;

24 (2) the criminal district attorneys for the counties
25 of Anderson, Austin, Bastrop, Bexar, Bowie, Brazoria, Caldwell,
26 Calhoun, Cass, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Deaf Smith, Denton, Eastland,
27 Fannin, Galveston, Grayson, Gregg, Harrison, Hays, Hidalgo,

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

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

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

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

17 ARTICLE 2. STATUTORY COUNTY COURTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (A) directly to the treasury by the Office of
22 Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System for fees paid
23 using the electronic filing system established under Section
24 72.031; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (b) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at

1 law in felony cases, in family law cases and proceedings, and in
2 civil cases in which the matter in controversy exceeds \$325,000
3 [~~\$250,000~~]. The county clerk serves as clerk of a county court at
4 law in all other cases. The district clerk shall establish a
5 separate docket for a county court at law. The commissioners court
6 shall provide the deputy clerks, bailiffs, and other personnel
7 necessary to operate a county court at law.

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

11 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section
12 25.0003 and other law, and except as limited by Subsection (b), a
13 county court at law in Atascosa County has concurrent jurisdiction
14 with the district court in:

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

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

27 (B) a suit for the enforcement of a lien on real

1 property;

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section

1 25.0003 and other law and except as limited by Subsection (b), a
2 county court at law in Bowie County has, concurrent with the
3 district court, the jurisdiction provided by the constitution and
4 by general law for district courts, including concurrent
5 jurisdiction in:

6 (1) specialty court programs;

7 (2) misdemeanor cases;

8 (3) family law cases and proceedings, including
9 juvenile matters; and

10 (4) probate and guardianship matters.

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

12 (1) felony criminal matters;

13 (2) suits on behalf of the state to recover penalties
14 or escheated property;

15 (3) misdemeanors involving official misconduct;

16 (4) contested elections; or

17 (5) civil cases in which the matter in controversy
18 exceeds the amount provided in Section 25.0003 [\$200,000],
19 excluding interest, statutory or punitive damages and penalties,
20 and attorney's fees and costs, as alleged on the face of the
21 petition.

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

1 the commissioners court [~~reporter's salary~~].

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 SECTION 2.10. (a) Effective September 1, 2026, Section

1 25.1101(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

7 (b) On September 1, 2026:

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

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

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

14 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section
15 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in Hidalgo County has
16 concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:

17 (1) family law cases and proceedings; and

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

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

1 for that purpose.

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

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

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

11 (b) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section
12 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in Tom Green County has
13 concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in family law cases
14 and proceedings.

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

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

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

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

1 filed in the district court.

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

4 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section
5 25.0003 and other law, the 2nd Multicounty Court at Law has
6 concurrent jurisdiction with the district courts, including
7 ~~[except]~~ in civil cases in which the matter in controversy exceeds
8 the maximum amount provided by Section 25.0003(c)(1).

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

11 (b) Section 25.1723(c), Government Code, as repealed by
12 this section, applies only to an action filed on or after September
13 1, 2025. An action filed before that date is governed by the law in
14 effect immediately before that date, and that law is continued in
15 effect for that purpose.

16 SECTION 2.17. Sections 25.0003(c), 25.0007(c), and
17 25.0062(b), Government Code, as amended by this article, apply only
18 to a civil case filed in a statutory county court on or after
19 September 1, 2025. A civil case filed in a statutory county court
20 before that date is governed by the law in effect immediately before
21 that date, and the former law is continued in effect for that
22 purpose.

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

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

7 SECTION 2.20. Section 25.2452, Government Code, as amended
8 by this article, applies only to an action filed in a county court
9 at law in Wichita County on or after September 1, 2025. An action
10 filed in a county court at law in Wichita County before that date is
11 governed by the law in effect on the date the action was filed, and
12 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

13 SECTION 2.21. Section 25.2704(a), Government Code, as
14 amended by this article, applies only to a case filed or proceeding
15 commenced on or after September 1, 2025. A case filed or proceeding
16 commenced before that date is governed by the law in effect on the
17 date the case was filed or the proceeding was commenced, and the
18 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

19 ARTICLE 3. VISITING JUDGES

20 SECTION 3.01. Sections 25.0022(d), (h), (k), (o), (t), (u),
21 and (w), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

22 (d) The presiding judge shall:

23 (1) ensure the promulgation of local rules of
24 administration in accordance with policies and guidelines set by
25 the supreme court;

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

1 (3) perform a duty of a local administrative statutory
2 probate court judge if the local administrative judge does not
3 perform that duty;

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

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

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

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

16 (8) compare local rules of court to achieve uniformity
17 of rules to the extent practical and consistent with local
18 conditions;

19 (9) assign or order the clerk who serves the statutory
20 probate courts to randomly assign a judge or former or retired judge
21 of a statutory probate court or a former or retired justice of an
22 appellate court to hear a case under Section 25.002201(a) or
23 25.00255, as applicable; and

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

27 (h) Subject to Section 25.002201, a judge or a former or

1 retired judge of a statutory probate court or a former or retired
2 justice of an appellate court may be assigned by the presiding judge
3 of the statutory probate courts to hold court in a statutory probate
4 court, a county court, or any statutory court exercising probate
5 jurisdiction when:

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (7) a county court judge requests the assignment of a
21 statutory probate judge to hear a probate matter in the county
22 court; or

23 (8) a local administrative statutory probate court
24 judge requests the assignment of a statutory probate judge to hear a
25 matter in a statutory probate court.

26 (k) The daily compensation of a former or retired judge or
27 justice for purposes of this section is set at an amount equal to

1 the daily compensation of a judge of a statutory probate court in
2 the county in which the former or retired judge or justice is
3 assigned. A former or retired judge or justice assigned to a county
4 that does not have a statutory probate court shall be paid an amount
5 equal to the daily compensation of a judge of a statutory probate
6 court in the county where the assigned judge or justice was last
7 elected.

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

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

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

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

18 (1) not have been removed from office;

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

21 (A) the judge or justice has not been publicly
22 reprimanded or censured by the State Commission on Judicial
23 Conduct; and

24 (B) the judge or justice:

25 (i) did not resign or retire from office
26 after the State Commission on Judicial Conduct notified the judge
27 or justice of the commencement of a full investigation into an

1 allegation or appearance of misconduct or disability of the judge
2 or justice as provided in Section 33.022 and before the final
3 disposition of that investigation; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (w) A former or retired judge or justice who is assigned

1 under this section is not an employee of the county in which the
2 assigned court is located.

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

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

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

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

16 (3) the order was issued under Section
17 25.00255(i-3)(1); or

18 (4) the presiding judge receives notice and a request
19 for assignment from the clerk of the statutory probate court under
20 Section 25.00255(l).

21 (b) If the judge who is the subject of an order of recusal or
22 disqualification is the presiding judge of the statutory probate
23 courts, the chief justice of the supreme court shall assign a
24 statutory probate judge, ~~or~~ a former or retired judge of a
25 statutory probate court, or a former or retired justice of an
26 appellate court to hear the case.

27 SECTION 3.03. Section 25.00255, Government Code, is amended

1 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (b) and (c) to
2 read as follows:

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

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

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

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

22 (4) if the presiding judge is the subject of the motion
23 of recusal or disqualification, shall sign and file with the clerk
24 an order referring the motion to the chief justice of the supreme
25 court for assignment of a presiding judge of an administrative
26 judicial region, a statutory probate court judge, ~~or~~ a former or
27 retired judge of a statutory probate court, or a former or retired

1 justice of an appellate court to hear and rule on the motion,
2 subject to Subdivisions (2) and (3).

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

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

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

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

1 amount to be paid to a former or retired justice or judge under this
 2 subsection, the compensation received from the state by a justice
 3 of the court of appeals to which the retired justice or judge is
 4 assigned is the amount equal to the state ~~[base]~~ salary paid to a
 5 justice of that court of appeals with eight years of service ~~[as set~~
 6 ~~by the General Appropriations Act]~~ in accordance with Section
 7 659.012(b)(2) ~~[659.012(a)]~~.

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

10 (b) A presiding judge may appoint a judicial mentor or
 11 arrange for additional administrative personnel to be assigned to a
 12 court identified by the Office of Court Administration of the Texas
 13 Judicial System as needing additional assistance under Section
 14 72.024(b-1). A former or retired judge or justice assigned as a
 15 judicial mentor under this subsection is entitled to the same
 16 salary, compensation, and expenses under Section 74.061 that the
 17 judge or justice would be entitled to if the judge or justice had
 18 been assigned under this chapter to serve as the judge of a trial
 19 court in the administrative judicial region of the court to which
 20 the judge or justice is assigned as a judicial mentor.

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

23 (a-1) A judge assigned under the provisions of this chapter
 24 to a court that sits in a county located in the Texas-Mexico border
 25 region, as defined by Section 2056.002(e), may conduct a
 26 proceeding, other than a trial, or perform a judicial action from
 27 any location in this state using videoconference, teleconference,

1 or other available electronic means if authorized by the order of
2 assignment.

3 SECTION 3.07. Section 74.061, Government Code, is amended
4 by amending Subsections (h), (i), and (k) and adding Subsection
5 (k-1) to read as follows:

6 (h) Notwithstanding Subsection (c), the salary from the
7 state of a retired judge or justice assigned to a district court is
8 determined pro rata based on the sum of the regular judge's salary
9 from the county plus the amount of the state ~~[base]~~ salary paid to a
10 district judge with eight years of service ~~[as set by the General~~
11 ~~Appropriations Act]~~ in accordance with Section 659.012(b)(2)
12 ~~[659.012(a)]~~.

13 (i) Notwithstanding Subsection (d), the salary from the
14 state of a former judge or justice assigned to a district court is
15 determined pro rata based on the amount of the state ~~[base]~~ salary
16 paid to a district judge with eight years of service ~~[as set by the~~
17 ~~General Appropriations Act]~~ in accordance with Section
18 659.012(b)(2) ~~[659.012(a)]~~.

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

24 (k-1) Notwithstanding any other provision, a former or
25 retired judge or justice assigned under this chapter to a
26 constitutional county court in a county located in the Texas-Mexico
27 border region, as defined by Section 2056.002(e), is entitled to

1 compensation from the state in an amount equal to the maximum salary
2 a district judge may receive from county and state sources under
3 Section 659.012(a) if the presiding judge of the administrative
4 judicial region in which the county lies certifies that exigent
5 circumstances require the assignment.

6 SECTION 3.08. This article takes effect immediately if this
7 Act receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
8 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
9 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
10 effect, this article takes effect September 1, 2025.

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

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

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

- 16 (1) a justice of the supreme court;
17 (2) a judge of the court of criminal appeals;
18 (3) a justice of the courts of appeals;
19 (4) a judge of a district court;
20 (5) an associate judge appointed by:
21 (A) a judge of a district court or a statutory
22 county court that gives preference to criminal cases in Jefferson
23 County;
24 (B) a judge of a district court or a statutory
25 county court of Brazos County, Nueces County, or Williamson County;
26 [~~or~~]
27 (C) a judge of a district court under Chapter

1 54A, Government Code; or
2 (D) a judge of a district court under Subchapter
3 B, Chapter 54B, Government Code;
4 (6) a criminal magistrate appointed by:
5 (A) the Bell County Commissioners Court;
6 (B) the Brazoria County Commissioners Court; or
7 (C) [~~(B)~~] the Burnet County Commissioners Court;
8 (7) a criminal law hearing officer for:
9 (A) Harris County appointed under Subchapter L,
10 Chapter 54, Government Code; or
11 (B) Cameron County appointed under Subchapter
12 BB, Chapter 54, Government Code;
13 (8) a magistrate appointed:
14 (A) by a judge of a district court of Bexar
15 County, Dallas County, or Tarrant County that gives preference to
16 criminal cases;
17 (B) by a judge of a criminal district court of
18 Dallas County or Tarrant County;
19 (C) by a judge of a district court or statutory
20 county court of Denton or Grayson County;
21 (D) by a judge of a district court or statutory
22 county court that gives preference to criminal cases in Travis
23 County;
24 (E) [~~(D)~~] by the El Paso Council of Judges;
25 (F) [~~(E)~~] by the Fort Bend County Commissioners
26 Court;
27 (G) [~~(F)~~] by the Collin County Commissioners

1 Court; or

2 (H) [~~G~~] under Subchapter JJ, Chapter 54,
3 Government Code;

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

7 (10) a county judge;

8 (11) a judge of:

9 (A) a statutory county court;

10 (B) a county criminal court; or

11 (C) a statutory probate court;

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

14 (13) a justice of the peace; and

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

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

19 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

26 (b) A master, magistrate, referee, or associate judge
27 appointed under the following provisions of this chapter must have

1 been licensed to practice law in this state for at least two years
2 before the date of appointment:

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

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

12 SUBCHAPTER EE. BELL COUNTY CRIMINAL MAGISTRATES

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

16 (b) The commissioners court shall establish the minimum
17 qualifications, salary, benefits, and other compensation of each
18 magistrate position and shall determine whether the position is
19 full-time or part-time. Notwithstanding another provision of this
20 chapter, to be eligible for appointment under this subchapter, a
21 person must have been licensed to practice law in this state and in
22 good standing with the State Bar of Texas for at least two years.

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

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

1 Sec. 54.1603. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The Commissioners
2 Court of Bell County shall establish the powers and duties of a
3 magistrate appointed under this subchapter. Except as otherwise
4 provided by the commissioners court, a magistrate has the powers of
5 a magistrate under the Code of Criminal Procedure and other laws of
6 this state and may administer an oath for any purpose.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (b) A referring court may fine or imprison a witness or
2 other court participant for failure to appear after being summoned,
3 refusal to answer questions, or other acts of direct contempt
4 before a magistrate.

5 SECTION 4.04. Section 54.302, Government Code, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 54.302. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for
8 appointment as a magistrate, a person must[+

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

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

12 SECTION 4.05. Section 54.652, Government Code, is amended
13 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 54.652. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for
15 appointment as a magistrate, a person must[+

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

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

19 SECTION 4.06. Section 54.802, Government Code, is amended
20 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 54.802. QUALIFICATIONS. A master must[+

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

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

25 SECTION 4.07. Section 54.853, Government Code, is amended
26 to read as follows:

27 Sec. 54.853. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for

1 appointment as a criminal law hearing officer under this
2 subchapter, a person must:

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

4 (2) ~~[have been licensed to practice law in this state~~
5 ~~for at least four years,~~

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

8 (3) ~~[(4)]~~ not have been removed from office by
9 impeachment, by the supreme court, by the governor on address to the
10 legislature, by a tribunal reviewing a recommendation of the State
11 Commission on Judicial Conduct, or by the legislature's abolition
12 of the judge's court; and

13 (4) ~~[(5)]~~ not have resigned from office after having
14 received notice that formal proceedings by the State Commission on
15 Judicial Conduct had been instituted as provided in Section 33.022
16 and before the final disposition of the proceedings.

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

19 Sec. 54.872. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for
20 appointment as a magistrate, a person must[+]

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

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

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

26 Sec. 54.902. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for
27 appointment as a magistrate, a person must[+]

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

4 SECTION 4.10. Section 54.972, Government Code, is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 54.972. QUALIFICATIONS. A magistrate must~~+~~
7 ~~[(1)]~~ be a resident of this state and of Travis
8 County~~[, and~~
9 ~~[(2)] have been licensed to practice law in this state~~
10 ~~for at least four years]~~.

11 SECTION 4.11. Section 54.1173, Government Code, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 54.1173. QUALIFICATIONS. A magistrate must:
14 (1) be a citizen of this state; and
15 (2) be at least 25 years of age~~[, and~~
16 ~~[(3)] have been licensed to practice law in this state~~
17 ~~for at least four years preceding the date of appointment]~~.

18 SECTION 4.12. Section 54.1353, Government Code, is amended
19 to read as follows:

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

23 (1) be a resident of Cameron County;
24 (2) be eligible to vote in this state and in Cameron
25 County;
26 (3) be at least 30 years of age; and
27 (4) ~~[be a licensed attorney with at least four years]~~

1 ~~experience, and~~

2 ~~[(5)]~~ have the other qualifications required by the
3 board.

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

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

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

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

14 SECTION 4.14. Section 54.1804, Government Code, is amended
15 to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

24 (b) The commissioners court shall establish the minimum
25 qualifications, salary, benefits, and other compensation of each
26 magistrate position and shall determine whether the position is
27 full-time or part-time. ~~[The qualifications must require the~~

1 ~~magistrate to have served as a justice of the peace or be an~~
2 ~~attorney licensed in this state.]~~

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

5 Sec. 54.1953. QUALIFICATIONS. A magistrate must:

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

7 (2) have resided in the county for at least six months
8 before the date of the appointment [~~, and~~

9 [~~(3) have:~~

10 [~~(A) served as a justice of the peace for at least~~
11 ~~four years before the date of appointment; or~~

12 [~~(B) been licensed to practice law in this state~~
13 ~~for at least four years before the date of appointment]~~.

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

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

18 (1) be a citizen of the United States; and

19 (2) have resided in Collin County for at least the four
20 years preceding the person's appointment [~~, and~~

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

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

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

27 (1) be a citizen of the United States; and

1 (2) have resided in Fort Bend County for at least the
2 four years preceding the person's appointment[~~+~~ and
3 ~~[(3) have been licensed to practice law in this state~~
4 ~~for at least four years]~~.

5 SECTION 4.19. Section 54.2602, Government Code, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 54.2602. QUALIFICATIONS. To be eligible for
8 appointment as a magistrate, a person must[~~+~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (1) serve Denton County as a district court judge, a

1 criminal statutory county court judge, an associate judge of a
2 court with criminal jurisdiction, a magistrate, including a jail
3 magistrate, a judge of a municipal court of record, or a justice of
4 the peace;

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

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

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

13 (4) ~~[(5)]~~ meet the qualifications under Section
14 54.2807.

15 SECTION 4.22. Section 54.2807, Government Code, is amended
16 to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

27 Sec. 54A.003. QUALIFICATIONS. To qualify for appointment

1 as an associate judge under this subchapter, a person must:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (1) be a citizen of the United States;

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

12 (3) be:

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

17 (B) eligible for assignment under Section
18 25.0022 by the presiding judge of the statutory probate courts; or

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

24 SECTION 4.26. Chapter 54B, Government Code, is amended by
25 adding Subchapter B to read as follows:

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

3 Sec. 54B.031. APPOINTMENT. (a) A judge of the 51st, 119th,
4 340th, or 391st district court may appoint a full-time or part-time
5 criminal associate judge to perform the duties authorized by this
6 subchapter if the commissioners court of the county in which the
7 court has jurisdiction has authorized the creation of an associate
8 judge position.

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

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

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

20 Sec. 54B.032. APPLICABILITY. Except as provided by Section
21 54B.033, Subchapter A, Chapter 54A applies to a criminal associate
22 judge appointed under this subchapter.

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

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

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

3 (3) a pretrial motion;

4 (4) a writ of habeas corpus;

5 (5) an examining trial;

6 (6) an occupational driver's license;

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

9 (8) an asset forfeiture hearing as provided by Chapter
10 59, Code of Criminal Procedure;

11 (9) a petition for an order of nondisclosure of
12 criminal history record information or an order of nondisclosure of
13 criminal history record information that does not require a
14 petition provided by Subchapter E-1, Chapter 411;

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

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

19 (12) specialty court proceedings;

20 (13) a waiver of extradition; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 ARTICLE 5. BUSINESS COURT

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

24 (a-1) In addition to the annual base salary from the state
25 prescribed by Subsection (a), a judge of a division of the business
26 court is entitled to an additional annual salary from the state in
27 an amount equal to the difference between the judge's annual base

1 salary from the state and the maximum combined base salary from all
2 state and county sources paid to a district judge under Subsection
3 (a).

4 ARTICLE 6. JURORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 19 (1) is at least 18 years of age;
20 (2) is a citizen of the United States;
21 (3) is a resident of this state and of the county in
22 which the person is to serve;
23 (4) is qualified under the constitution and other laws
24 to vote in the county in which the grand jury is sitting, regardless
25 of whether the person is registered to vote;
26 (5) is of sound mind and good moral character;
27 (6) is able to read and write;

1 (7) has never been convicted of misdemeanor theft [~~or~~
2 ~~a felony~~];

3 (8) has never been convicted of a felony;

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

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

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

13 (12) [~~(11)~~] is not a complainant in any matter to be
14 heard by the grand jury during the term of court for which the
15 person has been selected as a grand juror.

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

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

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

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

25 (C) [~~(2)~~] the prosecuting attorney for the court
26 to which the grand jurors were summoned for investigation into
27 whether any person made a false claim concerning the person's

1 qualification under Subsection (a)(2);

2 (2) a list of persons who in the preceding month were
3 disqualified from serving as a grand juror based on the person's
4 residency and send a copy of the list to:

5 (A) the secretary of state; and

6 (B) the voter registrar for the county in which
7 the grand jury is sitting;

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

11 (A) the secretary of state;

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

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

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

22 (A) the secretary of state; and

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

27 SECTION 6.04. Article 19A.105, Code of Criminal Procedure,

1 is amended to read as follows:

2 Art. 19A.105. EXCUSE AND EXEMPTION [~~EXCUSES~~] FROM GRAND
3 JURY SERVICE. (a) The court shall excuse from serving any
4 summoned person who does not possess the requisite qualifications
5 or who claims an exemption to which the person is entitled.

6 (b) The following qualified persons may be exempted
7 [~~excused~~] from grand jury service:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (b) A person may claim a permanent exemption by filing with
26 the district clerk or the clerk of a district court in the county,
27 through an electronic transmission, mail, or personal delivery, a

1 signed statement affirming the person is 75 years of age or older
2 and desires a permanent exemption on that ground.

3 (c) The district clerk shall maintain a current register of
4 the name of each person who resides in the county and who has
5 claimed and is entitled to a permanent exemption from grand jury
6 service because the person is 75 years of age or older.

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

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

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

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

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

3 (c) A person whose name appears on the list maintained under
4 this article may not be selected or summoned for grand jury service
5 by any judge of a district court served by the clerk.

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

9 (1) the secretary of state; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 who:

2 (A) hold a valid Texas driver's license or a
3 valid personal identification card or certificate issued by the
4 department; and

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

7 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the names of persons
8 listed on a register of persons exempt from jury service may not be
9 placed in the jury wheel, as provided by Sections 62.108 and[~~7~~]
10 62.109[~~7, 62.113, 62.114, and 62.115~~].

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

13 (g) The information contained in a completed questionnaire
14 may be disclosed to:

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

17 (2) court personnel;

18 (3) a litigant and a litigant's attorney in a cause of
19 action in which the respondent to the questionnaire is a potential
20 juror; and

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

25 SECTION 6.08. Section 62.102, Government Code, is amended
26 to read as follows:

27 Sec. 62.102. GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR JURY SERVICE. A

1 person is disqualified to serve as a petit juror unless the person:

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

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

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

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

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

9 (6) is able to read and write;

10 (7) ~~[has not served as a petit juror for six days~~
11 ~~during the preceding three months in the county court or during the~~
12 ~~preceding six months in the district court,~~

13 ~~[48]~~ has not been convicted of misdemeanor theft ~~[or~~
14 ~~a felony]~~;

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (2) has legal custody of a child younger than 12 years
27 of age and the person's service on the jury requires leaving the

1 child without adequate supervision;

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

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

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

10 (6) is summoned for service in a county with a
11 population of at least 200,000, unless that county uses a jury plan
12 under Section 62.011 and the period authorized under Section
13 62.011(b)(5) exceeds two years, and the person has served as a petit
14 juror in the county during the 24-month period preceding the date
15 the person is to appear for jury service;

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

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

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

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

1 (c) A person who files a statement with a clerk of the court,
 2 as provided by Subsection (a), claiming an exemption because the
 3 person is ~~[over]~~ 75 years of age or older, may also claim the
 4 permanent exemption on that ground authorized by Section 62.108 by
 5 including in the statement filed with the clerk a declaration that
 6 the person desires the permanent exemption. ~~The [Promptly after a~~
 7 ~~statement claiming a permanent exemption on the basis of age is~~
 8 ~~filed, the]~~ clerk of the court with whom the declaration ~~[it]~~ is
 9 filed shall notify the district clerk ~~[have a copy delivered to the~~
 10 ~~voter registrar of the county]~~.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (c-1) On the third business day of each month, the district
2 clerk shall prepare a list of persons who in the preceding month
3 claimed and were entitled to a permanent exemption under this
4 section or who rescinded an exemption under Subsection (e) and send
5 a copy of the list to the secretary of state.

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

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

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

23 (b) A person requesting an exemption under this section must
24 submit to the court or the district clerk an affidavit stating the
25 person's name and address and the reason for and the duration of the
26 requested exemption. A person requesting an exemption due to a
27 physical or mental impairment must attach to the affidavit a

1 statement from a physician. The affidavit and physician's
2 statement may be submitted to the court at the time the person is
3 summoned for jury service or at any other time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 26 (1) the voter registrar of the county;
- 27 (2) the secretary of state; and

1 (3) the county or district attorney for an
2 investigation of whether the person committed an offense under
3 Section 13.007, Election Code, or other law.

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

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

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

13 (1) the voter registrar of the county; and

14 (2) the secretary of state.

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

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

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

25 (1) the secretary of state; and

26 (2) the prosecuting attorney for a court to which a
27 person was summoned for investigation into whether the person

1 falsely made a claim related to a disqualification under Section
2 62.102(7) or (8) [in the preceding month].

3 (d-1) On the third business day of each month, the clerk of
4 the court shall prepare a list of the name and address of each
5 person on the list maintained under this section disqualified from
6 jury service because the person was convicted of a felony and send a
7 copy of the list to the voter registrar for the county.

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

15 ARTICLE 7. COURT ADMINISTRATION

16 SECTION 7.01. Section 233.006(b), Election Code, is amended
17 to read as follows:

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

23 SECTION 7.02. (a) Section 233.014, Election Code, is
24 transferred to Chapter 30, Civil Practice and Remedies Code,
25 redesignated as Section 30.023, Civil Practice and Remedies Code,
26 and amended to read as follows:

27 Sec. 30.023 [233.014]. SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR CONTEST OF

1 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION. (a) This section applies only
2 to a contest of an election on a proposed constitutional amendment.

3 (b) The contestant's petition must be filed and service of
4 citation on the secretary of state must be obtained before the final
5 official canvass is completed.

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

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

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

26 (e) If an amended petition alleging additional grounds of
27 contest is filed, the contest may not be called for trial earlier

1 than the 20th day after the date the amended petition is filed
2 unless the secretary of state agrees to calling the contest for
3 trial at an earlier date.

4 (f) The court shall include in its judgment in a contest an
5 order directing the governor to declare the ~~[official result of the~~
6 ~~election or to declare the]~~ election valid or void, as appropriate,
7 not later than the 10th day after the date the judgment becomes
8 final.

9 (g) Any question relating to the validity or outcome of a
10 constitutional amendment election may be raised in an election
11 contest. A contest is the exclusive method for adjudicating such
12 questions.

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

17 (b) Section 233.014, Election Code, as redesignated and
18 amended by this article, applies to a contest of a constitutional
19 amendment election filed on or after September 1, 2025. A contest
20 of a constitutional amendment election filed before that date is
21 governed by the law in effect on the date that the suit is filed, and
22 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

23 SECTION 7.03. Section 253.152(7), Election Code, is amended
24 to read as follows:

25 (7) "Statewide judicial office" means the office of
26 chief justice or justice, supreme court, or presiding judge or
27 judge, court of criminal appeals, or the Court of Appeals for the

1 Fifteenth Court of Appeals District.

2 SECTION 7.04. Section 6.4035(e), Family Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

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

6 SECTION 7.05. The heading to Section 22.110, Government
7 Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 22.110. JUDICIAL INSTRUCTION RELATED TO FAMILY
9 VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS, AND CHILD AND
10 ELDER ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

11 SECTION 7.06. Section 22.110, Government Code, is amended
12 by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (d) and adding Subsection
13 (b-1) to read as follows:

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

18 (b) The court of criminal appeals shall adopt the rules
19 necessary to accomplish the purposes of this section. The rules
20 must require:

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

27 (A) four hours dedicated to issues related to

1 trafficking of persons, ~~[and]~~ child abuse and neglect, and elder
2 abuse and neglect that cover at least two of the topics described in
3 Subsections (d)(8) through (12) and (d)(14) [~~(d)(8)-(12)~~];

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

6 (C) one hour dedicated to the training described
7 by Subsection (d)(13);

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

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

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

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

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

26 (d) The instruction must include information about:

27 (1) statutory and case law relating to videotaping a

1 child's testimony and relating to competency of children to
2 testify;

3 (2) methods for eliminating the trauma to the child
4 caused by the court process;

5 (3) case law, statutory law, and procedural rules
6 relating to family violence, sexual assault, trafficking of
7 persons, and child abuse and neglect;

8 (4) methods for providing protection for victims of
9 family violence, sexual assault, trafficking of persons, and child
10 abuse and neglect;

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

13 (6) gender bias in the judicial process;

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 [~~and~~]

27 (13) dynamics of family violence; and

1 (14) elder abuse and neglect.

2 SECTION 7.07. Section 22.216(n-2), Government Code, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (n-2) Notwithstanding Subsection (n-1), the Court of
5 Appeals for the Fifteenth Court of Appeals District consists of a
6 chief justice and of two justices holding places numbered
7 consecutively beginning with Place 2 for the first three years
8 following the court's creation. Place 4 shall be created and the
9 initial vacancy in that place shall be filled for the fourth year
10 following the court's creation. Place 5 shall be created and the
11 initial vacancy in that place shall be filled for the fifth year
12 following the court's creation. This subsection expires September
13 1, 2029 [~~2027~~].

14 SECTION 7.08. Section 22.220, Government Code, is amended
15 by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

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

21 SECTION 7.09. Section 51.303, Government Code, is amended
22 by amending Subsections (b) and (f) and adding Subsection (d) to
23 read as follows:

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

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

26 (2) enter all judgments of the court under the
27 direction of the judge; [~~and~~]

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

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

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

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

12 SECTION 7.10. Section 51.903(d), Government Code, is
13 amended to read as follows:

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

17 SECTION 7.11. Section 53.001(a), Government Code, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (a) The judges of the 30th, 70th, 71st, 78th, 89th, and
20 161st [~~7, and 341st~~] district courts, the judges of the district
21 courts having jurisdiction in Taylor County, the judges of the
22 county courts at law of Taylor County, and the judge of the County
23 Court of Harrison County shall each appoint a bailiff.

24 SECTION 7.12. Section 57.002(d), Government Code, is
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (d) Subject to Subsection (e), in a county with a population
27 of 50,000 or more, a court may appoint a spoken language interpreter

1 who is not a certified or licensed court interpreter;

2 (1) if:

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

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

8 (2) if the court is a justice court, municipal court,
9 or municipal court of record.

10 SECTION 7.13. Subchapter C, Chapter 71, Government Code, is
11 amended by adding Section 71.0354 to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

27 (4) the number of electronic notices submitted by the

1 prosecuting attorney to a court as required by Article
2 17.027(a)(2), Code of Criminal Procedure.

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

6 (1) the Texas District and County Attorneys
7 Association; and

8 (2) other interested persons.

9 SECTION 7.14. Section 72.015(c), Government Code, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (c) The judicial security division shall:

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

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

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

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

21 SECTION 7.15. Section 72.016, Government Code, is amended
22 to read as follows:

23 Sec. 72.016. NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR JUDICIAL PRIVACY.
24 The director shall develop a procedure to regularly notify county
25 registrars, the Department of Public Safety, the Texas Ethics
26 Commission, and any other state or local government agency the
27 office determines should be notified of the judges, judges'

1 spouses, employees of the Office of Court Administration of the
 2 Texas Judicial System and entities administratively attached to the
 3 office, employees and commissioners of the State Commission on
 4 Judicial Conduct, and related family members whose personal
 5 information must be kept from public records, as provided under
 6 Sections 552.117 and 572.035 of this code, Sections 13.0021 and
 7 15.0215, Election Code, Section 25.025, Tax Code, and Section
 8 521.121, Transportation Code.

9 SECTION 7.16. Section 72.083, Government Code, is amended
 10 by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

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

18 SECTION 7.17. Section 74.024(d), Government Code, is
 19 amended to read as follows:

20 (d) Any rules adopted under this section remain in effect
 21 unless and until disapproved by the legislature. The clerk of the
 22 supreme court shall file with the secretary of state the rules or
 23 any amendments to the rules adopted by the supreme court under this
 24 section and shall provide ~~mail~~ a copy of the rules and any
 25 amendments to each registered member of the State Bar not later than
 26 the 120th day before the date on which they become effective. The
 27 supreme court shall allow a period of 60 days for review and comment

1 on the rules and any amendments. The clerk of the supreme court
2 shall report the rules or amendments to the rules to the next
3 regular session of the legislature by providing ~~[mailing]~~ a copy of
4 the rules or amendments to the rules to each elected member of the
5 legislature on or before December 1 immediately preceding the
6 session.

7 SECTION 7.18. Section 74.051(c), Government Code, is
8 amended to read as follows:

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

21	Number of Courts and Judges	Salary
22	[30 to] 49 <u>or fewer</u>	<u>50</u> [30] percent of the state base
23		salary paid to a district judge
24		as set by the General
25		Appropriations Act in accordance
26		with Section 659.012(a)

1 50 to 69

55 ~~[35]~~ 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)

6 70 to 89

60 ~~[40]~~ 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)

11 90 or more

65 ~~[45]~~ 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)

SECTION 7.19. Section 74.091, Government Code, is amended
by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as
follows:

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

(1) for a term of ~~[not more than]~~ two years; or

(2) if the district judge's term ends before the second
anniversary of the date the district judge is elected as local
administrative judge, for the remainder of the district judge's
term.

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

1 elected on the basis of rotation or seniority.

2 SECTION 7.20. 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 7.21. 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 7.22. 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 7.23. Section 75.001(d), Government Code, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (d) A retiree who makes an election under this section shall
12 be:

13 (1) designated a senior judge; and

14 (2) considered a judge of a court of this state for the
15 purpose of appointment to a judicial branch board, commission, or
16 council.

17 SECTION 7.24. Section 121.002(c), Government Code, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, a specialty court
20 program may not operate until the judge, magistrate, or
21 coordinator:

22 (1) provides to the Office of Court Administration of
23 the Texas Judicial System:

24 (A) written notice of the program;

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

27 (C) a copy of the program policy manual,

1 participant handbook, or other adopted documentation describing
2 the operational plan of [~~applicable strategic plan that~~
3 ~~incorporates duties related to supervision that will be required~~
4 ~~under~~] the program; and

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

7 SECTION 7.25. Section 406.026, Government Code, is amended
8 to read as follows:

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

17 SECTION 7.26. Section 659.012, Government Code, is amended
18 by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (d-1) to read as
19 follows:

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

26 (1) in a county with three or four district courts,
27 three percent of the annual base [~~\$5,000 more than the maximum~~]

1 salary for a judge of a district court ~~[from the state to which the~~
2 ~~judge is otherwise entitled]~~ under Subsection (a);

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

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

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

15 SECTION 7.27. Section 574.001(b), Health and Safety Code,
16 is amended to read as follows:

17 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (f), the application
18 must be filed with the county clerk in the county in which the
19 proposed patient:

20 (1) resides;

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

23 (3) was apprehended under Chapter 573; or

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

26 SECTION 7.28. Section 118.011(a), Local Government Code, is
27 amended to read as follows:

1 (a) A county clerk shall collect the following fees for
2 services rendered to any person:

3 (1) Personal Property Records Filing (Sec. 118.012):

4 (A) for the first page \$ 5.00;

5 (B) for each additional page or part of a page on
6 which there are visible marks of any kind \$ 4.00;

7 (2) Real Property Records Filing (Sec. 118.013):

8 (A) for the first page \$ 5.00;

9 (B) for each additional page or part of a page on
10 which there are visible marks of any kind \$ 4.00;

11 (C) for all or part of each 8-1/2" X 14"
12 attachment or rider \$ 4.00;

13 (D) for each name in excess of five names that
14 has to be indexed in all records in which the document must be
15 indexed \$ 0.25;

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

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

18 (B) printed on paper, plus a fee for each page or
19 part of a page \$ 1.00;

20 (C) that is a paper document converted to
21 electronic format, for each page or part of a page \$1;

22 (D) that is an electronic copy of an electronic
23 document:

24 (i) for each document up to 10 pages in
25 length \$1;

26 (ii) for each page or part of a page of a
27 document over 10 pages \$0.10;

(4) Noncertified Papers (Sec. 118.0145):

(A) printed on paper, for each page or part of a page \$ 1.00;

(B) that is a paper document converted to electronic format, for each page or part of a page \$1;

(C) that is an electronic copy of an electronic document:

(i) for each document up to 10 pages in length \$1;

(ii) for each page or part of a page of a document over 10 pages \$0.10;

(5) Birth or Death Certificate (Sec. 118.015) . . same as state registrar;

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

(7) Marriage License (Sec. 118.018) \$60.00;

(8) Declaration of Informal Marriage (Sec. 118.019) \$25.00;

(9) Brand Registration (Sec. 118.020) \$ 5.00;

(10) Oath Administration (Sec. 118.021) \$ 1.00.

SECTION 7.29. Section 135.101(a), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

(2) \$35 on any action other than an original action for

1 a case subject to Subdivision (1), including ~~[an appeal and]~~ any
2 counterclaim, cross-action, intervention, contempt action,
3 interpleader, motion for new trial, motion to reinstate, or
4 third-party action.

5 SECTION 7.30. Section 615.003(a), Local Government Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

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

10 SECTION 7.31. Sections 53.001(i), 53.009(d), and
11 74.051(b), Government Code, are repealed.

12 SECTION 7.32. (a) In this section:

13 (1) "Digital court reporting" means the act of making
14 a verbatim record of an oral court proceeding, deposition, or
15 proceeding before a grand jury, referee, or court commissioner for
16 use in litigation in the courts of this state through the use of
17 digital technology, electronic recording equipment, or other
18 recording and transcribing technology.

19 (2) "Office" means the Office of Court Administration
20 of the Texas Judicial System.

21 (b) The office shall conduct a study on digital court
22 reporting, including:

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

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

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

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

8 (d) This section expires September 1, 2027.

9 SECTION 7.33. Section 6.4035(e), Family Code, and Section
10 406.026, Government Code, as amended by this article, apply to a
11 waiver of citation executed in a suit for dissolution of a marriage
12 that is pending in a trial court on September 1, 2025, or that is
13 filed on or after that date.

14 SECTION 7.34. (a) As soon as practicable after September 1,
15 2025, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals shall adopt the rules
16 necessary to implement Section 22.110, Government Code, as amended
17 by this article.

18 (b) Section 22.110, Government Code, as amended by this
19 article, applies to all judges, masters, referees, and magistrates
20 elected, appointed, or holding office on or after September 1,
21 2025.

22 SECTION 7.35. Section 22.220(e), Government Code, as added
23 by this article, applies only to a notice of appeal filed on or
24 after September 1, 2025. A notice of appeal filed before that date
25 is governed by the law in effect on the date the notice was filed,
26 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

27 SECTION 7.36. Section 53.001, Government Code, as amended

1 by this article, does not apply to a bailiff appointed by the judge
2 of the 341st or 406th district court before September 1, 2025. A
3 bailiff appointed by the judge of the 341st or 406th district court
4 before that date shall continue to serve and receive compensation
5 from Webb County in the same manner as before that date and shall be
6 eligible to receive any longevity or cost of living salary
7 increases available to a bailiff serving in Webb County before that
8 date. The former law is continued in effect for the purposes of
9 this section.

10 SECTION 7.37. Not later than September 1, 2026, the Texas
11 Judicial Council shall prescribe the information, and form and
12 manner of submission, a prosecuting attorney in this state is
13 required to report under Section 71.0354, Government Code, as added
14 by this article.

15 SECTION 7.38. The change in law made by this article to
16 Section 574.001, Health and Safety Code, applies only to an
17 application for court-ordered mental health services submitted on
18 or after September 1, 2025.

19 ARTICLE 8. COPIES CERTIFIED BY CLERKS

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

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

25 (1) on each page of the copy:

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

27 (B) the district court 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 8.02. Subchapter F, Chapter 51, Government Code, is
10 amended by adding Section 51.503 to read as follows:

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

13 (1) on each page of the copy:

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

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

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

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

19 (A) the clerk's attestation certifying that the
20 copy is a true and correct copy of the original document filed in
21 the clerk's office;

22 (B) the number of pages copied; and

23 (C) the date the copy was issued.

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

26 Sec. 191.0041. CERTIFIED COPIES. A certified copy made of
27 an original document on file in a county clerk's office must

1 include:

2 (1) on each page of the copy:

3 (A) either:

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

5 (ii) a unique document certification and

6 paginated page number; and

7 (B) either:

8 (i) the commissioners court seal on a copy

9 of a document that is not a court document; or

10 (ii) the court seal on a copy of a court

11 document; and

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

13 (A) the clerk's attestation certifying that the

14 copy is a true and correct copy of the original document filed in

15 the clerk's office;

16 (B) the number of pages copied; and

17 (C) the date the copy was issued.

18 ARTICLE 9. YOUTH DIVERSION

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

21 (b) A judge shall ~~may~~ allow a defendant who is a child, as
22 defined by Article 45A.453(a), to elect at the time of conviction,
23 as defined by Section 133.101, Local Government Code, to discharge
24 the fine and costs by:

25 (1) performing community service or receiving
26 tutoring under Article 45A.460, regardless of whether the
27 applicable offense occurred at a location specified by Subsection

1 (a) of that article; or

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

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

9 SUBCHAPTER K. YOUTH DIVERSION

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

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

14 (2) "Child" has the meaning assigned by Article
15 45A.453(a).

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

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

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

24 (6) "Parent" has the meaning assigned by Article
25 45A.457(a).

26 (7) "Service provider" means a governmental agency,
27 political subdivision, open-enrollment charter school, nonprofit

1 organization, or other entity that provides services to children or
2 families.

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

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

7 Art. 45A.502. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies only
8 to a child who is alleged to have engaged in conduct that
9 constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine only, other than a
10 traffic offense.

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (c) A child is not eligible for diversion if the child has

1 previously had an unsuccessful diversion under this subchapter.

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

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

7 Art. 45A.505. DIVERSION STRATEGIES. (a) Diversion
8 strategies include:

9 (1) requiring a child to participate in a program,
10 including:

11 (A) a court-approved teen court program operated
12 by a service provider;

13 (B) a school-related program;

14 (C) an educational program, including an alcohol
15 awareness program, a tobacco awareness program, or a drug education
16 program;

17 (D) a rehabilitation program; or

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

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

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

27 (B) juvenile case manager services under Article

1 45A.451;

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

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

7 (E) community-based services;

8 (F) mental health screening and clinical
9 assessment;

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

12 (H) mentoring services;

13 (3) requiring a child to:

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

16 (B) submit to alcohol or drug testing; or

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

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

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

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

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

27 (b) A diversion strategy may be imposed under:

- 1 (1) an intermediate diversion under Article 45A.509;
2 (2) a diversion by a justice or judge under Article
3 45A.510; or
4 (3) a system of graduated sanctions for certain school
5 offenses under Section 37.144, Education Code.

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

- 9 (1) attend an elementary or secondary school; or
10 (2) use an educational curriculum other than the
11 curriculum selected by the parent.

12 Art. 45A.506. YOUTH DIVERSION PLAN. (a) A youth diversion
13 plan is a written plan that describes the types of strategies that
14 will be used to implement youth diversion. A youth diversion plan
15 does not limit the types of diversion strategies that may be imposed
16 under a diversion agreement under Article 45A.508.

17 (b) Each justice and municipal court shall adopt a youth
18 diversion plan.

19 (c) A youth diversion plan may be devised for a county or
20 municipality or an individual court within a county or
21 municipality.

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 (1) determining whether a child is eligible for
14 diversion;

15 (2) employing a diversion strategy authorized by this
16 subchapter;

17 (3) presenting and maintaining diversion agreements;

18 (4) monitoring diversions;

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

21 (6) coordinating referrals to court.

22 (b) The responsibilities of the youth diversion coordinator
23 may be performed by:

24 (1) a court administrator or court clerk, or a person
25 who regularly performs the duties of court administrator or court
26 clerk;

27 (2) an individual or entity that provides juvenile

1 case manager services under Article 45A.451;

2 (3) a court-related services office;

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

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

7 (6) a community volunteer;

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

10 (8) a qualified nonprofit organization as determined
11 by the court.

12 Art. 45A.508. DIVERSION AGREEMENT. (a) A diversion
13 agreement must identify the parties to the agreement and the
14 responsibilities of the child and the child's parent to ensure
15 their meaningful participation in a diversion under Article 45A.509
16 or 45A.510.

17 (b) Stated objectives in a diversion agreement must be
18 measurable, realistic, and reasonable and consider the
19 circumstances of the child, the best interests of the child, and the
20 long-term safety of the community.

21 (c) A diversion agreement must include:

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

26 (2) possible outcomes or consequences of a successful
27 diversion and an unsuccessful diversion;

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

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

7 (5) the period of the diversion;

8 (6) a verification that:

9 (A) the child and the child's parent were
10 notified of the child's rights, including the right to refuse
11 diversion; and

12 (B) the child knowingly and voluntarily consents
13 to participate in the diversion; and

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

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

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

21 (1) does not contest the charge;

22 (2) is eligible for diversion under Article 45A.504;

23 and

24 (3) accepts the terms of the agreement.

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

27 (g) On entering into a diversion agreement, a copy of the

1 agreement shall be provided to the child and the child's parent, the
2 clerk of the court, a youth diversion coordinator, and any person
3 specified by the youth diversion plan.

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

9 (1) the child is eligible for diversion under Article
10 45A.504;

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

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

15 (4) the child and the child's parent are informed that
16 they may terminate the diversion at any time and, if terminated, the
17 case will be referred to court.

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

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

27 Art. 45A.510. DIVERSION BY JUSTICE OR JUDGE. (a) If a

1 charge involving a child who is eligible for diversion is filed with
2 a court, and the child does not contest the charge, a justice or
3 judge shall divert the case under this article without the child
4 having to enter a plea.

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

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

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

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

15 Art. 45A.511. REFERRAL TO COURT. (a) A court shall conduct
16 a non-adversarial hearing for a child who does not successfully
17 complete the terms of a diversion under Article 45A.509 or 45A.510
18 and is referred to the court.

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

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

26 (1) amending or setting aside terms in the diversion
27 agreement;

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

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

6 (4) subject to Subsection (d), requiring the child's
7 parent to perform any act or refrain from performing any act as the
8 court determines will increase the likelihood the child will
9 successfully complete the diversion and comply with any other order
10 of the court that is reasonable and necessary for the welfare of the
11 child;

12 (5) finding the diversion successful on the basis of
13 substantial compliance; or

14 (6) finding the diversion unsuccessful and:

15 (A) transferring the child to juvenile court for
16 alleged conduct indicating a need for supervision under Section
17 51.08, Family Code; or

18 (B) referring the charge to the prosecutor for
19 consideration of re-filing.

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

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

27 (f) The statute of limitations in Article 12.02 is tolled

1 during the diversion period for purposes of Subsection (c)(6)(B).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (i) The diversion of a child may not be contingent on

1 payment of a fee under this article.

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

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

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

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

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

16 SECTION 9.03. Section 53.01(b-1), Family Code, is amended
17 to read as follows:

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

23 (1) ~~[the child is younger than 12 years of age,~~

24 ~~[(2)]~~ there is probable cause to believe the child
25 engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for
26 supervision;

27 (2) [(3)] the child's case does not require referral

1 to the prosecuting attorney under Subsection (d) or (f);

2 (3) [~~(4)~~] the child is eligible for deferred
3 prosecution under Section 53.03; and

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

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

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

11 SECTION 9.04. Section 82.004, Family Code, is amended to
12 read as follows:

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

19 (1) the name [~~and county of residence~~] of each
20 applicant;

21 (2) the county of residence of each applicant, unless
22 the applicant requests confidentiality pursuant to Section 82.011
23 or 85.007;

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

26 (4) [~~(3)~~] the relationships between the applicants
27 and the individual alleged to have committed family violence;

1 (5) [~~4~~] a request for one or more protective orders;

2 ~~[and]~~

3 (6) [~~5~~] whether an applicant is receiving services
4 from the Title IV-D agency in connection with a child support case
5 and, if known, the agency case number for each open case; and

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

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

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

19 SECTION 9.05. Section 42.0426(b), Human Resources Code, is
20 amended to read as follows:

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

25 (1) behavior intervention instruction for staff
26 members who work directly with children served by the facility,
27 including crisis response training for emergency behavior

1 intervention with a goal of limiting law enforcement involvement;
2 and

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

5 SECTION 9.06. Section 152.00145, Human Resources Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (A) younger than 12 years of age; or

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

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

27 (1) the number of children referred to the board who

1 reside in a general residential operation;

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

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

7 SECTION 9.07. Section 53.01(b-1), Family Code, as amended
8 by this article, applies only to conduct that occurs on or after
9 September 1, 2025. Conduct that occurs before September 1, 2025, is
10 governed by the law in effect on the date the conduct occurred, and
11 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For the
12 purposes of this section, conduct occurred before September 1,
13 2025, if any element of the conduct occurred before that date.

14 ARTICLE 10. JUVENILE BOARDS

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

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

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

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

23 (1) the county judge;

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

26 (3) an elected judicial officer of Comal County
27 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

1 claim. [~~(a) A party may not assert a claim in an arbitration~~
2 ~~proceeding if the party could not bring suit for the claim in court~~
3 ~~due to the expiration of the applicable limitations period.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (b) In issuing the order of deferral, the judge may impose a

1 special expense fee [~~fine~~] on the defendant in an amount not to
2 exceed the amount of the fine that could be imposed on the defendant
3 as punishment for the offense.

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

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

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

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

20 ARTICLE 12. MUNICIPAL COURT PROVISIONS

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

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

1 (d) A committee shall ~~may~~ recommend to the municipality
2 the uses of resources and expenditures of money for courthouse
3 security, but may not direct the assignment of those resources or
4 the expenditure of those funds.

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

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

11 (b) The presiding judge shall:

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

15 (2) provide for the distribution of cases from the
16 central docket to the individual municipal judges to equalize the
17 distribution of business in the courts;

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

20 (4) temporarily assign judges or substitute judges to
21 exchange benches and to act for each other in a proceeding pending
22 in a court if necessary for the expeditious disposition of business
23 in the courts;

24 (5) supervise and control the operation and clerical
25 functions of the administrative department of each court, including
26 the court's personnel, during the proceedings of the court; and

27 (6) establish a court security committee to adopt

1 security policies and procedures for the courts served by the
2 presiding judge, including by developing a court emergency
3 management plan, that is composed of:

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

6 (B) a representative of the law enforcement
7 agency or other entity that provides the primary security for the
8 court;

9 (C) a representative of the municipality; and

10 (D) any other person the committee determines
11 necessary to assist the committee.

12 (c) A court security committee shall ~~[may]~~ recommend to the
13 governing body the uses of resources and expenditures of money for
14 courthouse security, but may not direct the assignment of those
15 resources or the expenditure of those funds.

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

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

21 (d) ~~[In addition to satisfying the requirements of Section~~
22 ~~30.00006(c), a municipal judge must maintain residence in the city~~
23 ~~during the tenure of office and must be a resident of the city at the~~
24 ~~time of appointment or election.]~~ The judge shall devote as much
25 time to the office as it requires.

26 SECTION 12.04. Chapter 30, Government Code, is amended by
27 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 AND RECORD PROVISIONS

SECTION 13.01. Articles 43.09(a) and (k), Code of Criminal Procedure, are amended to read as follows:

(a) When a defendant is convicted of a misdemeanor and the defendant's punishment is assessed at a pecuniary fine or is confined in a jail after conviction of a felony for which a fine is imposed, if the defendant is unable to pay the fine and costs adjudged against the defendant, the defendant may for such time as will satisfy the judgment be put to work in the county jail industries program, in the workhouse, or on the county farm, or public improvements and maintenance projects of the county or a political subdivision located in whole or in part in the county, as provided in Article 43.10; or if there is no such county jail industries program, workhouse, farm, or improvements and maintenance projects, the defendant shall be confined in jail for a sufficient length of time to discharge the full amount of fine and costs adjudged against the defendant; rating such confinement at \$150 [~~\$100~~] for each day and rating such labor at \$150 [~~\$100~~] for

1 each day; provided, however, that the defendant may pay the
 2 pecuniary fine assessed against the defendant at any time while the
 3 defendant is serving at work in the county jail industries program,
 4 in the workhouse, or on the county farm, or on the public
 5 improvements and maintenance projects of the county or a political
 6 subdivision located in whole or in part in the county, or while the
 7 defendant is serving the defendant's jail sentence, and in such
 8 instances the defendant is entitled to the credit earned under this
 9 subsection during the time that the defendant has served and the
 10 defendant shall only be required to pay the balance of the pecuniary
 11 fine assessed against the defendant. A defendant who performs
 12 labor under this article during a day in which the defendant is
 13 confined is entitled to both the credit for confinement and the
 14 credit for labor provided by this article.

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

18 SECTION 13.02. Article 45A.251(e), Code of Criminal
 19 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

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

1 SECTION 13.03. Article 45A.254(e), Code of Criminal
2 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

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

6 SECTION 13.04. Article 45A.459(i), Code of Criminal
7 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

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

11 SECTION 13.05. Article 45A.460(i), Code of Criminal
12 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

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

16 SECTION 13.06. The heading to Section 13.0021, Election
17 Code, is amended to read as follows:

18 Sec. 13.0021. ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION FROM
19 CERTAIN FEDERAL AND STATE JUDGES, FEDERAL OFFICIALS, CLERKS,
20 GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING MUNICIPAL COURT PERSONNEL, AND
21 FAMILY MEMBERS.

22 SECTION 13.07. Section 13.0021(b), Election Code, is
23 amended to read as follows:

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

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

1 judge;

2 (2) [] a state judge;

3 (3) [] a marshal of the United States Marshals
4 Service;

5 (4) [] a United States attorney;

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

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

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

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

19 (9) a family member of a person listed in Subdivisions
20 (1)-(8) [state judge, a federal judge, including a federal
21 bankruptcy judge, a marshal of the United States Marshals Service,
22 or a United States attorney, the registrar of the county shall omit
23 the applicant's residence address from the registration list].

24 SECTION 13.08. Subchapter A, Chapter 58, Family Code, is
25 amended by adding Section 58.010 to read as follows:

26 Sec. 58.010. CONFIDENTIALITY OF WARRANTS OF ARREST.
27 Notwithstanding Article 15.26, Code of Criminal Procedure, an

1 arrest warrant issued for a child and a complaint or affidavit on
2 which an arrest warrant issued for a child is based are confidential
3 and may be disclosed only to the following:

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

6 (2) a juvenile justice agency, as defined by Section
7 58.101;

8 (3) a criminal justice agency, as defined by Section
9 411.082;

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

12 (5) an attorney representing the child;

13 (6) a prosecuting attorney; or

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

17 SECTION 13.09. Section 301.052(a), Family Code, is amended
18 to read as follows:

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

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

22 (2) the name, address, and telephone number of any
23 potential parties;

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

26 (4) the amount and any method of calculating economic
27 damages;

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

4 (6) for any testifying expert:

5 (A) the expert's name, address, and telephone
6 number;

7 (B) the subject matter on which the expert will
8 testify;

9 (C) the general substance of the expert's mental
10 impressions and opinions and a brief summary of the basis for those
11 impressions and opinions, or if the expert is not retained by,
12 employed by, or otherwise subject to the control of the responding
13 party, documents reflecting that information; and

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

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

20 (ii) the expert's current resume and
21 biography;

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

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

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

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

3 (B) an authorization permitting the disclosure
4 of the information described by Paragraph (A);

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

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

11 SECTION 13.10. (a) Section 81.113(a), Government Code, is
12 amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (F) ~~[(6)]~~ the Legislative Reference Library;

25 (G) ~~[(7)]~~ the office of the state auditor; or

26 (H) ~~[(8)]~~ the Sunset Advisory Commission; or

27 (2) serving as a state official appointed by the

1 governor and confirmed by the senate.

2 (b) Section 81.113, Government Code, as amended by this
3 article, applies only to the minimum requirements for a continuing
4 legal education compliance year that ends on or after September 1,
5 2025. The minimum requirements for continuing legal education for
6 a compliance year that ends before September 1, 2025, are covered by
7 the law and rules in effect when the compliance year ended, and that
8 law and those rules are continued in effect for that purpose.

9 SECTION 13.11. Section 552.117, Government Code, is amended
10 by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to
11 read as follows:

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

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

19 (2) a current or honorably retired peace officer as
20 defined by Article 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure, or a current
21 or honorably retired security officer commissioned under Section
22 51.212, Education Code, regardless of whether the officer complies
23 with Section 552.024 or 552.1175, as applicable;

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

1 552.1175;

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

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

11 (6) an officer or employee of a community supervision
12 and corrections department established under Chapter 76 who
13 performs a duty described by Section 76.004(b), regardless of
14 whether the officer or employee complies with Section 552.024 or
15 552.1175;

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

21 (8) a current or former employee of the Texas Juvenile
22 Justice Department or of the predecessors in function of the
23 department, regardless of whether the current or former employee
24 complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

25 (9) a current or former juvenile probation or
26 supervision officer certified by the Texas Juvenile Justice
27 Department, or the predecessors in function of the department,

1 under Title 12, Human Resources Code, regardless of whether the
2 current or former officer complies with Section 552.024 or
3 552.1175;

4 (10) a current or former employee of a juvenile
5 justice program or facility, as those terms are defined by Section
6 261.405, Family Code, regardless of whether the current or former
7 employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

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

12 (12) 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, regardless of whether the current or former attorney
16 complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

17 (13) a current or former employee of a district
18 attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal
19 attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child
20 protective services matters, regardless of whether the current or
21 former employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

22 (14) a current or former employee of the Texas Civil
23 Commitment Office or of the predecessor in function of the office or
24 a division of the office, regardless of whether the current or
25 former employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

26 (15) a current or former federal judge or state judge,
27 as those terms are defined by Section 1.005, Election Code, a

1 federal bankruptcy judge, a marshal of the United States Marshals
2 Service, a United States attorney, or a family member of a current
3 or former federal judge, including a federal bankruptcy judge, a
4 marshal of the United States Marshals Service, a United States
5 attorney, or a state judge;

6 (16) a current or former child protective services
7 caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator
8 for the Department of Family and Protective Services, regardless of
9 whether the caseworker or investigator complies with Section
10 552.024 or 552.1175, or a current or former employee of a department
11 contractor performing child protective services caseworker, adult
12 protective services caseworker, or investigator functions for the
13 contractor on behalf of the department;

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

16 (18) a current or former United States attorney,
17 assistant United States attorney, federal public defender, deputy
18 federal public defender, or assistant federal public defender and
19 the spouse or child of the current or former attorney or public
20 defender, regardless of whether the person complies with Section
21 552.024 or 552.1175; ~~[or]~~

22 (19) a firefighter or volunteer firefighter or
23 emergency medical services personnel as defined by Section 773.003,
24 Health and Safety Code, regardless of whether the firefighter or
25 volunteer firefighter or emergency medical services personnel
26 comply with Section 552.024 or 552.1175, as applicable;

27 (20) a current or former county clerk, district clerk,

1 or county and district clerk, or a current or former employee of the
2 office of a county clerk, district clerk, or county and district
3 clerk, regardless of whether the current or former clerk or
4 employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

5 (21) a current or former employee whose duties relate
6 to court administration, including a court clerk, court
7 coordinator, court administrator, juvenile case manager, law
8 clerk, or staff attorney, regardless of whether the employee
9 complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175;

10 (22) a current or former employee of the Office of
11 Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities
12 administratively attached to the office, regardless of whether the
13 employee complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175; or

14 (23) a current or former employee or commissioner of
15 the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, regardless of whether the
16 employee or commissioner complies with Section 552.024 or 552.1175.

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

20 (b-1) A county clerk or district clerk on request of a
21 person to whom this section applies shall redact information
22 described by Subsection (a) that relates to the person posted on an
23 Internet website by:

24 (1) the clerk; or

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

27 SECTION 13.12. Section 552.1175, Government Code, is

1 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (e) and adding Subsection
2 (e-1) to read as follows:

3 (a) This section applies only to:

4 (1) current or honorably retired peace officers as
5 defined by Article 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure, or special
6 investigators as described by Article 2A.002, Code of Criminal
7 Procedure;

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

10 (3) current or former employees of the Texas
11 Department of Criminal Justice or of the predecessor in function of
12 the department or any division of the department;

13 (4) commissioned security officers as defined by
14 Section 1702.002, Occupations Code;

15 (5) a current or former district attorney, criminal
16 district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose
17 jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services
18 matters;

19 (5-a) a current or former employee of a district
20 attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal
21 attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child
22 protective services matters;

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

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

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

3 (9) current and former employees of the office of the
4 attorney general who are or were assigned to a division of that
5 office the duties of which involve law enforcement or are performed
6 under Chapter 231, Family Code;

7 (10) current or former juvenile probation and
8 detention officers certified by the Texas Juvenile Justice
9 Department, or the predecessors in function of the department,
10 under Title 12, Human Resources Code;

11 (11) current or former employees of a juvenile justice
12 program or facility, as those terms are defined by Section 261.405,
13 Family Code;

14 (12) current or former employees of the Texas Juvenile
15 Justice Department or the predecessors in function of the
16 department;

17 (13) federal judges and state judges as defined by
18 Section 1.005, Election Code;

19 (14) current or former employees of the Texas Civil
20 Commitment Office or of the predecessor in function of the office or
21 a division of the office;

22 (15) 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 (16) a current or former child protective services
27 caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator

1 for the Department of Family and Protective Services or a current or
2 former employee of a department contractor performing child
3 protective services caseworker, adult protective services
4 caseworker, or investigator functions for the contractor on behalf
5 of the department;

6 (17) an elected public officer;

7 (18) a firefighter or volunteer firefighter or
8 emergency medical services personnel as defined by Section 773.003,
9 Health and Safety Code; ~~and~~

10 (19) a current or former United States attorney,
11 assistant United States attorney, federal public defender, deputy
12 federal public defender, or assistant federal public defender;

13 (20) a current or former county clerk, district clerk,
14 or county and district clerk, or a current or former employee of the
15 office of a county clerk, district clerk, or county and district
16 clerk;

17 (21) a current or former employee whose duties relate
18 to court administration, including a court clerk, court
19 coordinator, court administrator, juvenile case manager, law
20 clerk, or staff attorney;

21 (22) a current or former employee of the Office of
22 Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities
23 administratively attached to the office; and

24 (23) a current or former employee or commissioner of
25 the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

26 (e) Except as provided by Subsection (e-1), all ~~[All]~~
27 documents filed with a county clerk and all documents filed with a

district clerk are exempt from this section.

(e-1) A county clerk or district clerk on request of a person to whom this section applies shall redact information described by Subsection (b) that relates to the person from any document the clerk posts on an Internet website.

SECTION 13.13. Section 42.07(b), Penal Code, is amended by amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

(1) "Court employee" means an employee whose duties relate to court administration, including a court clerk, court coordinator, court administrator, juvenile case manager, law clerk, or staff attorney. The term does not include a judge.

(1-a) "Electronic communication" means a transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photo-optical system. The term includes:

(A) a communication initiated through the use of electronic mail, instant message, network call, a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, text message, a social media platform or application, an Internet website, any other Internet-based communication tool, or facsimile machine; and

(B) a communication made to a pager.

SECTION 13.14. Section 42.07(c), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor, except that the offense is:

1 (1) a Class A misdemeanor if:

2 (A) [~~(1)~~] the actor has previously been
3 convicted under this section; [~~or~~]

4 (B) [~~(2)~~] the offense was committed under
5 Subsection (a)(7) or (8) and:

6 (i) [~~(A)~~] the offense was committed against
7 a child under 18 years of age with the intent that the child:

8 (a) [~~(i)~~] commit suicide; or

9 (b) [~~(ii)~~] engage in conduct causing
10 serious bodily injury to the child; or

11 (ii) [~~(B)~~] the actor has previously
12 violated a temporary restraining order or injunction issued under
13 Chapter 129A, Civil Practice and Remedies Code; or

14 (C) the offense was committed against a person
15 the actor knows is a court employee;

16 (2) a state jail felony if the offense was committed
17 against a person the actor knows is:

18 (A) a court employee and the actor has previously
19 been convicted under this section; or

20 (B) a judge; and

21 (3) a felony of the third degree if the offense was
22 committed against a person the actor knows is a judge and the actor
23 has previously been convicted under this section.

24 SECTION 13.15. Section 21.049, Property Code, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 Sec. 21.049. NOTICE OF DECISION OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS.
27 The judge of a court hearing a proceeding under this chapter shall

1 inform the clerk of the court as to a decision by the special
2 commissioners on the day the decision is filed or on the next
3 working day after the day the decision is filed. Not later than the
4 next working day after the day the decision is filed, the clerk
5 shall send notice of the decision by a delivery method described
6 under Rule 21a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure [~~certified or~~
7 ~~registered United States mail, return receipt requested~~], to the
8 parties in the proceeding, or to their attorneys of record, at their
9 addresses of record.

10 SECTION 13.16. Section 25.025(a), Tax Code, as amended by
11 Chapters 76 (S.B. 617), 152 (S.B. 870), 430 (H.B. 1911), 765 (H.B.
12 4504), and 937 (S.B. 1525), Acts of the 88th Legislature, Regular
13 Session, 2023, is reenacted and further amended to read as follows:

14 (a) This section applies only to:

15 (1) a current or former peace officer as defined by
16 Article 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure, and the spouse or
17 surviving spouse of the peace officer;

18 (2) the adult child of a current peace officer as
19 defined by Article 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure;

20 (3) a current or honorably retired county jailer as
21 defined by Section 1701.001, Occupations Code;

22 (4) an employee of the Texas Department of Criminal
23 Justice;

24 (5) a commissioned security officer as defined by
25 Section 1702.002, Occupations Code;

26 (6) an individual who shows that the individual, the
27 individual's child, or another person in the individual's household

1 is a victim of family violence as defined by Section 71.004, Family
2 Code, by providing:

3 (A) a copy of a protective order issued under
4 Chapter 85, Family Code, or a magistrate's order for emergency
5 protection issued under Article 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure;
6 or

7 (B) other independent documentary evidence
8 necessary to show that the individual, the individual's child, or
9 another person in the individual's household is a victim of family
10 violence;

11 (7) an individual who shows that the individual, the
12 individual's child, or another person in the individual's household
13 is a victim of sexual assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking of
14 persons by providing:

15 (A) a copy of a protective order issued under
16 Subchapter A or B, Chapter 7B, Code of Criminal Procedure, or a
17 magistrate's order for emergency protection issued under Article
18 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure; or

19 (B) other independent documentary evidence
20 necessary to show that the individual, the individual's child, or
21 another person in the individual's household is a victim of sexual
22 assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking of persons;

23 (8) a participant in the address confidentiality
24 program administered by the attorney general under Subchapter B,
25 Chapter 58, Code of Criminal Procedure, who provides proof of
26 certification under Article 58.059, Code of Criminal Procedure;

27 (9) a federal judge, a federal bankruptcy judge, a

1 marshal of the United States Marshals Service, a state judge, or a
2 family member of a federal judge, a federal bankruptcy judge, a
3 marshal of the United States Marshals Service, or a state judge;

4 (10) a current or former district attorney, criminal
5 district attorney, or county or municipal attorney whose
6 jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child protective services
7 matters;

8 (11) a current or former employee of a district
9 attorney, criminal district attorney, or county or municipal
10 attorney whose jurisdiction includes any criminal law or child
11 protective services matters;

12 (12) an officer or employee of a community supervision
13 and corrections department established under Chapter 76,
14 Government Code, who performs a duty described by Section 76.004(b)
15 of that code;

16 (13) a criminal investigator of the United States as
17 described by Article 2A.002(a), Code of Criminal Procedure;

18 (14) a current or honorably retired police officer or
19 inspector of the United States Federal Protective Service;

20 (15) a current or former United States attorney,
21 assistant United States attorney, federal public defender, deputy
22 federal public defender, or assistant federal public defender and
23 the spouse and child of the attorney or public defender;

24 (16) a current or former employee of the office of the
25 attorney general who is or was assigned to a division of that office
26 the duties of which involve law enforcement or are performed under
27 Chapter 231, Family Code;

1 (17) a medical examiner or person who performs
2 forensic analysis or testing who is employed by this state or one or
3 more political subdivisions of this state;

4 (18) a current or former member of the United States
5 armed forces who has served in an area that the president of the
6 United States by executive order designates for purposes of 26
7 U.S.C. Section 112 as an area in which armed forces of the United
8 States are or have engaged in combat;

9 (19) a current or former employee of the Texas
10 Juvenile Justice Department or of the predecessors in function of
11 the department;

12 (20) 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;

16 (21) a current or former employee of a juvenile
17 justice program or facility, as those terms are defined by Section
18 261.405, Family Code;

19 (22) a current or former employee of the Texas Civil
20 Commitment Office or the predecessor in function of the office or a
21 division of the office;

22 (23) a current or former employee of a federal judge or
23 state judge;

24 (24) a current or former child protective services
25 caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator
26 for the Department of Family and Protective Services or a current or
27 former employee of a department contractor performing child

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

4 (25) an elected public officer;

5 (26) a firefighter or volunteer firefighter or
6 emergency medical services personnel as defined by Section 773.003,
7 Health and Safety Code;

8 (27) a customs and border protection officer or border
9 patrol agent of United States Customs and Border Protection or the
10 spouse, surviving spouse, or adult child of a customs and border
11 protection officer or border patrol agent;

12 (28) [~~(27)~~ a current or former attorney for the
13 ~~Department of Family and Protective Services~~]

14 [~~(27)~~] a current or former employee or contract staff
15 member of a university health care provider at a corrections
16 facility operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or
17 the Texas Juvenile Justice Department;

18 (29) [~~and~~]

19 [~~(28)~~] a current or former attorney for the Department
20 of Family and Protective Services;

21 (30) a current or former county clerk, district clerk,
22 or county and district clerk, or a current or former employee of the
23 office of a county clerk, district clerk, or county and district
24 clerk;

25 (31) a current or former employee whose duties relate
26 to court administration, including a court clerk, court
27 coordinator, court administrator, juvenile case manager, law

1 clerk, or staff attorney;

2 (32) a current or former employee of the Office of
3 Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities
4 administratively attached to the office; and

5 (33) a current or former employee or commissioner of
6 the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

7 SECTION 13.17. Section 34.03(a), Tax Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (a) The clerk of the court shall:

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

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

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

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

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

27 (3) regardless of the amount, send to the attorney

1 general notice of the deposit and amount of excess proceeds if the
2 attorney general or a state agency represented by the attorney
3 general is named as an in rem defendant in the underlying suit for
4 seizure of the property or foreclosure of a tax lien on the
5 property.

6 SECTION 13.18. Section 521.121, Transportation Code, is
7 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection
8 (c-1) to read as follows:

9 (a) The driver's license must include:

10 (1) a distinguishing number assigned by the department
11 to the license holder;

12 (2) a photograph of the entire face of the holder;

13 (3) the full name and date of birth of the holder;

14 (4) a brief description of the holder; and

15 (5) the license holder's residence address or, for a
16 license holder using the procedure under Subsection (c):

17 (A) [7] the street address of the courthouse in
18 which the license holder or license holder's spouse or parent:

19 (i) serves as a federal judge, including a
20 federal bankruptcy judge, a marshal of the United States Marshals
21 Service, a United States attorney, or a state judge; or

22 (ii) performs duties related to court
23 administration, including a court clerk, court coordinator, court
24 administrator, juvenile case manager, law clerk, or staff attorney;
25 or

26 (B) the office address of the office in which the
27 license holder or the license holder's spouse or parent performs

duties as an employee of the office of a county clerk, district clerk, or county and district clerk, or of the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities administratively attached to the office, or as an employee or commissioner of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

(c) The department shall establish a procedure, on a license holder's qualification for or appointment to office as a federal or state judge as defined by Section 1.005, Election Code, or as a county clerk, district clerk, or county and district clerk, or as a federal bankruptcy judge, a marshal of the United States Marshals Service, ~~or~~ a United States attorney, or for a license holder whose duties relate to court administration, including a court clerk, court coordinator, court administrator, juvenile case manager, law clerk, or staff attorney, or as an employee of the office of a county clerk, district clerk, or county and district clerk, or of the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities administratively attached to the office, or as an employee or commissioner of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, to omit the residence address of the judge, ~~or~~ official, employee, or commissioner and any family member of the judge, ~~or~~ official, employee, or commissioner on the license holder's license and to print ~~[include]~~, in lieu of that address, the street address of the courthouse or office building in which the license holder or license holder's spouse or parent serves as a federal or state judge, ~~or~~ official, employee, or commissioner.

(c-1) The residence address of a license holder whose residence address is omitted using the procedure under Subsection

1 (c) is confidential and is available only for the official use of
2 the department or a law enforcement agency.

3 SECTION 13.19. Section 521.243(a), Transportation Code, is
4 amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

15 SECTION 13.20. Article 43.09(a), Code of Criminal
16 Procedure, as amended by this article, applies to a defendant who is
17 confined or performs labor to discharge fines or costs on or after
18 September 1, 2025, regardless of whether the offense for which the
19 fines or costs were imposed occurred before, on, or after September
20 1, 2025.

21 SECTION 13.21. The changes in law made by this article to
22 Articles 43.09(k), 45A.254(e), 45A.459(i), and 45A.460(i), Code of
23 Criminal Procedure, apply to a defendant who performs community
24 service to discharge fines or costs on or after September 1, 2025,
25 regardless of whether the offense for which the fines or costs were
26 imposed occurred before, on, or after September 1, 2025.

27 SECTION 13.22. Article 45A.251(e), Code of Criminal

1 Procedure, as amended by this article, applies to a defendant who is
2 sentenced for an offense on or after September 1, 2025, regardless
3 of whether the offense was committed before, on, or after that date.

4 SECTION 13.23. Section 301.052(a), Family Code, as amended
5 by this article, applies to an action that is pending in a trial
6 court on September 1, 2025, or that is filed on or after that date.

7 SECTION 13.24. Section 42.07, Penal Code, as amended by
8 this article, applies only to an offense committed on or after
9 September 1, 2025. An offense committed before that date is
10 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,
11 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For
12 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before September
13 1, 2025, if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

14 SECTION 13.25. Not later than November 1, 2026, the
15 Department of Public Safety shall:

16 (1) review the department's processes for
17 implementation of and compliance with Section 521.121,
18 Transportation Code, as amended by this Act; and

19 (2) submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor,
20 the speaker of the house of representatives, each member of the
21 legislature, and the Texas Judicial Council a written report
22 containing the results of the review, a description of the methods
23 used to prepare the review, and any recommendations for legislative
24 or other action.

25 ARTICLE 14. MANDATORY EXPUNCTION FOR CERTAIN PERSONS; RETENTION OF
26 CERTAIN RECORDS

27 SECTION 14.01. Article 55A.203, Code of Criminal Procedure,

1 is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding
2 Subsections (b-1) and (d) to read as follows:

3 (a) A trial court that is a district court or a district
4 court in the county in which the trial court is located shall ~~[may,~~
5 ~~with the consent of the attorney representing the state,~~] enter an
6 expunction order for a person entitled to expunction under Article
7 55A.053(a)(2)(A) not later than the 30th day after the date the
8 court, as applicable:

9 (1) dismisses the case following the person's
10 successful completion of a veterans treatment court program created
11 under Chapter 124, Government Code, or former law; or

12 (2) receives the information regarding the dismissal.

13 (b) A trial court that is a district court or a district
14 court in the county in which the trial court is located shall ~~[may,~~
15 ~~with the consent of the attorney representing the state,~~] enter an
16 expunction order for a person entitled to expunction under Article
17 55A.053(a)(2)(B) not later than the 30th day after the date the
18 court, as applicable:

19 (1) dismisses the case following the person's
20 successful completion of a mental health court program created
21 under Chapter 125, Government Code, or former law; or

22 (2) receives the information regarding the dismissal.

23 (b-1) A trial court that is a district court or a district
24 court in the county in which the trial court is located shall enter
25 an expunction order for a person entitled to expunction under
26 Article 55A.053(a)(2)(C) not later than the 30th day after the date
27 the court, as applicable:

1 (1) dismisses the case following the person's
 2 successful completion of a pretrial intervention program
 3 authorized under Section 76.011, Government Code, other than a
 4 program described by Subsection (a)(1) or (b)(1) of this section;
 5 or

6 (2) receives the information regarding the dismissal.

7 (d) The person for whom a court is required to enter an
 8 expunction order under Subsection (a), (b), or (b-1), as
 9 applicable, shall provide to the attorney representing the state
 10 all of the information required in a petition for expunction under
 11 Article 55A.253 and any affidavit required under Article 55A.053(b)
 12 or (c). The attorney representing the state shall prepare an
 13 expunction order under this article for the court's signature.

14 SECTION 14.02. Subchapter E, Chapter 55A, Code of Criminal
 15 Procedure, is amended by adding Article 55A.2035 to read as
 16 follows:

17 Art. 55A.2035. ATTORNEY REPRESENTING STATE CERTIFIES
 18 RECORDS AND FILES NOT NEEDED. (a) A trial court that is a district
 19 court or a district court in the county in which the trial court is
 20 located shall enter an expunction order for a person entitled to
 21 expunction under Article 55A.052(a)(4) not later than the 30th day
 22 after the date the court receives the certification described by
 23 that subdivision.

24 (b) The attorney representing the state who certified under
 25 Article 55A.052(a)(4) that the applicable arrest records and files
 26 are not needed for use in any criminal investigation or prosecution
 27 shall prepare an expunction order under this article for the

1 court's signature. The person for whom a court is required to enter
2 an expunction order under Subsection (a) shall provide to the
3 attorney representing the state all of the information required in
4 a petition for expunction under Article 55A.253.

5 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, a court that enters an
6 expunction order under this article may not charge any fee or assess
7 any cost for the expunction.

8 SECTION 14.03. Subchapter H, Chapter 55A, Code of Criminal
9 Procedure, is amended by adding Article 55A.358 to read as follows:

10 Art. 55A.358. RETENTION OF RECORDS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND
11 OPERATION OF PRETRIAL INTERVENTION PROGRAMS. Notwithstanding
12 Articles 55A.353, 55A.354, 55A.355, and 55A.356, a community
13 supervision and corrections department established under Chapter
14 76, Government Code, or an office of an attorney representing the
15 state, in possession of records and files subject to an expunction
16 order based on an entitlement under Article 55A.053(a)(2)(A), (B),
17 or (C) may retain and use those records and files only for the
18 purpose of developing and operating pretrial intervention programs
19 in a judicial district served by the department or office.

20 ARTICLE 15. CONFLICT; EFFECTIVE DATE

21 SECTION 15.01. To the extent of any conflict, this Act
22 prevails over another Act of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session,
23 2025, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in
24 enacted codes.

25 SECTION 15.02. Except as otherwise provided by a provision
26 of this Act, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
ARTICLE 1. DISTRICT COURTS AND DISTRICT ATTORNEYS	ARTICLE 1. DISTRICT COURTS, <i>DISTRICT CLERKS</i> , AND DISTRICT ATTORNEYS	ARTICLE 1. Same heading as House version.
SECTIONS 1.01-1.02.	SECTIONS 1.01-1.02. Same as Senate version.	SECTIONS 1.01-1.02. Same as Senate version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	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. <u>(b) The 173rd District Court shall give preference to civil and family law matters.</u>	SECTION 1.03. Same as House version.
SECTION 1.03. 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).	<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 1.04. Same as Senate version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 1.04. Effective January 1, 2027, Section 24.451, Government Code, is amended to read as follows: Sec. 24.451. 274TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (COMAL COUNTY [GUADALUPE, AND HAYS COUNTIES]). (a) The 274th Judicial District is composed of Comal County [Guadalupe, and Hays counties]. (b) <u>In addition to other jurisdiction provided by law, each district court in Comal County has the civil and criminal jurisdiction of a county court</u> [The terms of the 274th District Court begin on the second Tuesdays in February and August in Comal County, on the second Tuesdays in May and November in Guadalupe County, and on the second Tuesdays in June and December in Hays County.]	Same as Senate version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

~~[(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.~~
~~[(d) Section 24.123, relating to the 22nd District Court, contains provisions applicable to both that court and the 274th District Court]. [FA3(1)]~~

SECTION 1.04. 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].~~

No equivalent provision.

No equivalent provision.

No equivalent provision. SECTION 1.05. [Deleted by FA3(1)]

SECTION 1.05. Same as Senate version.

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 1.06. Same as House version.

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

SECTION 1.07. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

~~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 1.05. Effective September 1, 2026, creates 490th Judicial District of Brazoria County.

SECTION 1.08. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 1.08. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 1.06. *Effective January 1, 2027*, creates 492nd Judicial District (Colorado and Lavaca Counties) on *January 1, 2027*.

SECTION 1.09. *Effective September 1, 2026*, creates the judicial district on *September 1, 2026*. [FA2(2)]

SECTION 1.09. Same as House version.

No equivalent provision.

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 1.10. Same as House version.

SECTIONS 1.07-1.08.

SECTIONS 1.11-1.12. Same as Senate version.

SECTIONS 1.11-1.12. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 1.09. (a) Subchapter C, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 24.60049 to read as follows:

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 1.13. Same as Senate version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

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

(b) The 504th Judicial District is created on September 1, 2025.

SECTION 1.10. *Effective January 1, 2027*, creates 511th Judicial District (Comal County) on *January 1, 2027*.

SECTION 1.11. (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.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 1.13. *Effective September 1, 2026*, creates judicial district on *September 1, 2026*. [FA2(4)]

SECTION 1.14. Same as Senate version.

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.

SECTION 1.14. Same as House version.

SECTION 1.15. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 1.16. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

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). (a) The 517th Judicial District is composed of Harris County.
(b) The 517th District Court shall give preference to civil cases.

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

SECTION 1.17. Same as House version.

SECTION 1.17. Section 24.911, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:
(a-2) Tarrant County Criminal District Court No. 2 shall give preference to criminal cases.

SECTION 1.18. Same as House version.

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

SECTION 1.19. Same as House version.

No equivalent provision.

No equivalent provision.

No equivalent provision.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

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

SECTION 1.12. *Effective January 1, 2029*, Section 43.101, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:
Sec. 43.101. 1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT. The voters of [~~Sabine and~~] San Augustine County [~~counties~~] elect a district attorney for the 1st Judicial District who represents the state in the [that] district courts in that county [court only in those counties].

SECTION 1.19. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 1.20. Same as Senate version except amendment is *effective September 1, 2028*.

SECTION 1.13. (a) Effective *January 1, 2029*, Subchapter B, Chapter 43, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 43.1742 to read as follows:
Sec. 43.1742. 273RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT. The voters of Sabine County elect a district attorney for the 273rd Judicial District who represents the state in the district courts in that county.

SECTION 1.20. (a) Effective *September 1, 2028*, Subchapter B, Chapter 43, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 43.1742 to read as follows: [FA2(5)]
Sec. 43.1742. 273RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT. The voters of Sabine County elect a district attorney for the 273rd Judicial District who represents the state in the district courts in that county.

SECTION 1.21. (a) Same as Senate version.

(b) The office of district attorney for the 273rd Judicial District is created on *January 1, 2029*.

(b) The office of district attorney for the 273rd Judicial District is created on *September 1, 2028*. [FA2(6)]

(b) Same as House version.

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

No equivalent provision.

Same as House version.

No equivalent provision.

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

SECTION 1.22. Substantially the same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

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 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.

No equivalent provision.

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. Same as House version.

SECTION 1.14. 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,

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,

SECTION 1.24. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

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, 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 1.15. 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).**

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

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); and [FA3(2)]
 - (2) Sections 24.127(b) and (c). [FA3(3)]
- (But see SECTION 1.04 above, effective January 1, 2027.)*

CONFERENCE

SECTION 1.25. Same as Senate version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	<p>SECTION 1. __. Effective January 1, 2029, Section 24.123, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:</p> <p>Sec. 24.123. 22ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT (CALDWELL [COMAL], AND HAYS COUNTIES). (a) The 22nd Judicial District is composed of Caldwell [Comal] and Hays counties.</p> <p>(b) [In addition to other jurisdiction provided by law, each district court in Comal County has the civil and criminal jurisdiction of a county court.]</p> <p>[(e)] The terms of the 22nd District Court begin:</p> <p>(1) in Caldwell County on the first Mondays in March, June, September, and December; <u>and</u></p> <p>(2) [in Comal County on the first Mondays in April, July, October, and January; and]</p> <p>[(3)] in Hays County on the first Mondays in February, May, August, and November. [FA3(4)]</p>	Same as Senate version.
ARTICLE 2. STATUTORY COUNTY COURTS	ARTICLE 2. Same heading as Senate version.	ARTICLE 2. Same heading as Senate version.
<p>SECTION 2.01. Section 22.004(h-1), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:</p> <p><i>No equivalent provision.</i></p>	<p>SECTION 2.01. Sections 22.004(b) and (h-1), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:</p> <p>(b) The supreme court from time to time may promulgate a specific rule or rules of civil procedure, or an amendment or amendments to a specific rule or rules, to be effective at the time the supreme court deems expedient in the interest of a proper administration of justice. The rules and amendments to rules remain in effect unless and until disapproved by the legislature. The clerk of the supreme court shall file with the secretary of state the rules or amendments to rules promulgated by the supreme court under this subsection and shall <i>provide</i> [mail] a copy of those rules or amendments to</p>	<p>SECTION 2.01. Same as Senate version except as follows:</p> <p>(b) Same as House version</p>

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

rules to each registered member of the State Bar of Texas not later than the 60th day before the date on which they become effective. On receiving a written request from a member of the legislature, the secretary of state shall provide the member with electronic notifications when the supreme court has promulgated rules or amendments to rules under this section. [FA2(7)]

(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.

(h-1) Same as Senate version.

(h-1) Same as Senate version.

SECTIONS 2.02-2.03.

SECTIONS 2.02-2.03. Same as Senate version.

SECTIONS 2.02-2.03. Same as Senate version.

No equivalent provision.

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

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

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

(A) directly to the treasury by the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System for fees paid

SECTION 2.04. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

using the electronic filing system established under Section 72.031; or

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

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

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

No equivalent provision.

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

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

SECTION 2.05. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

SECTIONS 2.04-2.06.

SECTIONS 2.06-2.08. Same as Senate version.

SECTIONS 2.06-2.08. Same as Senate version.

No equivalent provision.

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 2.09. Same as House version.

SECTION 2.07. (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 2.10. (a) Effective **September 1, 2026**, Section 25.1101(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows: [FA2(8)]

(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 September 1, 2026:** [FA2(9)]

- (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 2.10. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

SECTIONS 2.08-2.09.

SECTIONS 2.11-2.12. Same as Senate version.

SECTIONS 2.11-2.12. Same as Senate version.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 2.13. Section 25.2282, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b) to read as follows:
(b) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in Tom Green County has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in family law cases and proceedings.

SECTION 2.13. Same as House version.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 2.14. Sections 25.2452(b), (c), (d), and (e), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:
(b) All misdemeanor cases, probate and mental health matters, proceedings under the Estates Code, and appeals from municipal courts of record shall be filed in the county court at law. A county court at law may transfer a case or an appeal described by this subsection to the county court with the consent of the county judge.
(c) Except as provided by Section 25.0003 and Subsection (d), a county court at law has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:
(1) family law cases and proceedings under the Family Code; ~~and~~
(2) civil cases in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$500 but does not exceed \$200,000, excluding interest, exemplary damages, penalties, attorney's fees, and court costs; 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

SECTION 2.14. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

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

No equivalent provision.

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

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

SECTION 2.15. Same as House version.

SECTION 2.10. (a) Sections 25.0212(d) and 25.1723(c), Government Code, are repealed.

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

SECTION 2.16. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
(b) Section 25.1723(c), Government Code, as repealed by this section, applies only to an action filed on or after <u>the effective date of this Act</u> . An action filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before that date, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.	(b) Section 25.1723(c), Government Code, as repealed by this section, applies only to an action filed on or after <u>September 1, 2025</u> . An action filed before that date is governed by the law in effect immediately before that date, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.	
SECTION 2.11. Saving provision, 25.0003(c), 25.0007(c), and 25.0062(b), Government Code, as amended.	SECTION 2.17. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 2.17. Same as Senate version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 2.18. Applicability, Section 25.00212, Government Code, as amended.	SECTION 2.18. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 2.19. Saving provision, Section 25.2282, Government Code, as amended.	SECTION 2.19. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 2.20. Saving provision, Section 25.2452, Government Code, as amended.	SECTION 2.20. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 2.21. Saving provision, Section 25.2704(a), Government Code, as amended.	SECTION 2.21. Same as House version.
ARTICLE 3. VISITING JUDGES	ARTICLE 3. Same heading as Senate version.	ARTICLE 3. Same heading as Senate version.
SECTION 3.01. Section 25.0022, Government Code, is amended. Among other provisions, Subsection (k) is amended and Subsection (k-1) is added to read as follows: (k) <u>Except as provided by Subsection (k-1), the [The]</u> daily compensation of a former or retired judge <u>or justice</u> for purposes of this section is set at an amount equal to the daily compensation of a judge of a statutory probate court in the	SECTION 3.01. Same as Senate version except as follows: (k) The daily compensation of a former or retired judge <u>or justice</u> for purposes of this section is set at an amount equal to the daily compensation of a judge of a statutory probate court in the county in which the former or retired judge <u>or</u>	SECTION 3.01. Same as House version. (k) Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

county in which the former or retired judge or justice is assigned. A former or retired judge or justice assigned to a county that does not have a statutory probate court shall be paid an amount equal to the daily compensation of a judge of a statutory probate court in the county where the assigned judge or justice was last elected.

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

SECTION 3.02. Section 25.002201, Government Code, is amended.

SECTION 3.03. Amends Section 25.00255(a), Government Code, as follows:

(a) Includes a former or retired justice of an appellate court among the individuals to whom a motion of recusal or disqualification whose subject is the presiding judge of the statutory probate courts may be referred.

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

justice is assigned. A former or retired judge or justice assigned to a county that does not have a statutory probate court shall be paid an amount equal to the daily compensation of a judge of a statutory probate court in the county where the assigned judge or justice was last elected. [FA2(11)]

No equivalent provision. (k-1) [Deleted by FA2(12)]

SECTION 3.02. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 3.03. Same as Senate version except adds ***Subsections (b) and (c)*** as follows:

(a) Same as Senate version.

CONFERENCE

Same as House version.

SECTION 3.02. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 3.03. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

No equivalent provision.

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

No equivalent provision.

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

SECTIONS 3.04-3.05.

SECTIONS 3.04-3.05. Same as Senate version.

SECTIONS 3.04-3.05. Same as Senate version.

No equivalent provision.

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 3.06. Same as House version.

SECTION 3.06. Section 74.061, Government Code, is amended.

SECTION 3.07. Same as Senate version except Subsection (k) is amended and Subsection (k-1) is added to read as follows:

SECTION 3.07. Same as House version.

No equivalent provision.

(k) Except as provided by Subsection (k-1) and notwithstanding ~~Notwithstanding~~ any other provision of

(k) Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

law, a former, retired, or active judge is not entitled to compensation paid by the state when the judge sits as an assigned judge for a statutory county court. [FA2(14)]

No equivalent provision.

(k-1) Notwithstanding any other provision, a former or retired judge or justice assigned under this chapter to a constitutional county court in a county located in the Texas-Mexico border region, as defined by Section 2056.002(e), is entitled to compensation from the state in an amount equal to the maximum salary a district judge may receive from county and state sources under Section 659.012(a) if the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region in which the county lies certifies that exigent circumstances require the assignment. [FA2(14)]

(k-1) Same as House version.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 3. ____ . This article takes effect immediately if this Act receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this article takes effect September 1, 2025. [FA2(15)]

Same as House version.

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

ARTICLE 4. Same heading as Senate version.

ARTICLE 4. Same heading as Senate version.

SECTION 4.01. Article 2A.151, Code of Criminal Procedure, relating to the types of officers who are considered magistrates for purposes of that code, is amended to include among those officers a criminal magistrate appointed by the Commissioners Court of Bell County and a magistrate appointed by a judge of a district court or statutory county court of Denton or Grayson County.

SECTION 4.01. Same as Senate version except also includes among the officers *a criminal associate judge appointed by an applicable district judge under Subchapter B, Chapter 54B, Government Code, relating to criminal associate judges in Coke, Concho, Irion, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, and Tom Green Counties.*

SECTION 4.01. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
SECTIONS 4.02-4.25.	SECTIONS 4.02-4.25. Same as Senate version.	SECTIONS 4.02-4.25. Same as Senate version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 4.26. Chapter 54B, Government Code, is amended to authorize criminal associate judges in Coke, Concho, Irion, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, and Tom Green Counties.	SECTION 4.26. Same as House version.
SECTION 4.26. Saving provision, ARTICLE 4 changes.	SECTION 4.27. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 4.27. Same as Senate version.
ARTICLE 5. BUSINESS COURT	ARTICLE 5. Same heading as Senate version.	ARTICLE 5. Same heading as Senate version.
SECTION 5.01. Section 659.012, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows: <u>(a-1) In addition to the annual base salary from the state prescribed by Subsection (a), a judge of a division of the business court is entitled to an annual salary supplement from the state in an amount equal to the difference between the judge's annual base salary from the state and the maximum combined base salary from all state and county sources paid to a district judge under Subsection (a).</u>	SECTION 5.01. Section 659.012, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows: <u>(a-1) In addition to the annual base salary from the state prescribed by Subsection (a), a judge of a division of the business court is entitled to an additional annual salary from the state in an amount equal to the difference between the judge's annual base salary from the state and the maximum combined base salary from all state and county sources paid to a district judge under Subsection (a).</u>	SECTION 5.01. Same as House version.
ARTICLE 6. JURORS	ARTICLE 6. Same heading as Senate version.	ARTICLE 6. Same heading as Senate version.
SECTIONS 6.01-6.02.	SECTIONS 6.01-6.02. Same as Senate version.	SECTIONS 6.01-6.02. Same as Senate version.
SECTION 6.03. Article 19A.101, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows: Art. 19A.101. GRAND JUROR QUALIFICATIONS; <u>LISTS OF DISQUALIFIED PERSONS.</u> (a) A person may be selected or serve as a grand juror only if the person: (1) is at least 18 years of age;	SECTION 6.03. Article 19A.101, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows: Art. 19A.101. GRAND JUROR QUALIFICATIONS; <u>LISTS OF DISQUALIFIED PERSONS.</u> (a) A person may be selected or serve as a grand juror only if the person: (1) is at least 18 years of age;	SECTION 6.03. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

(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;
(9) is not under indictment or other legal accusation for misdemeanor theft or a felony;
(10) ~~[(9)]~~ is not related within the third degree by consanguinity or second degree by affinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, to any person selected to serve or serving on the same grand jury;
(11) ~~[(10)]~~ has not served as a grand juror in the year before the date on which the term of court for which the person has been selected as a grand juror begins; and
(12) ~~[(11)]~~ is not a complainant in any matter to be heard by the grand jury during the term of court for which the person has been selected as a grand juror.
(b) On the third business day of each month, the clerk of the district court shall prepare:
(1) a list of persons who in the preceding month were disqualified from serving as a grand juror based on the person's citizenship ~~[or indictment or conviction for misdemeanor theft or a felony]~~ and send a copy of the list to:
(A) ~~[(1)]~~ the secretary of state;
(B) the voter registrar for the county in which the grand jury is sitting; and

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

(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;
(9) is not under indictment or other legal accusation for misdemeanor theft or a felony;
(10) ~~[(9)]~~ is not related within the third degree by consanguinity or second degree by affinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, to any person selected to serve or serving on the same grand jury;
(11) ~~[(10)]~~ has not served as a grand juror in the year before the date on which the term of court for which the person has been selected as a grand juror begins; and
(12) ~~[(11)]~~ is not a complainant in any matter to be heard by the grand jury during the term of court for which the person has been selected as a grand juror.
(b) On the third business day of each month, the clerk of the district court shall prepare:
(1) a list of persons who in the preceding month were disqualified from serving as a grand juror based on the person's citizenship ~~[or indictment or conviction for misdemeanor theft or a felony]~~ and send a copy of the list to:
(A) ~~[(1)]~~ the secretary of state;
(B) the voter registrar for the county in which the grand jury is sitting; and

CONFERENCE

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

(C) [(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 Subsection (a)(2);
(2) a list of persons who in the preceding month were disqualified from serving as a grand juror based on the person's residency and send a copy of the list to:
(A) the secretary of state; and
(B) the voter registrar for the county in which the grand jury is sitting; and
(3) a list of persons who in the preceding month were disqualified from serving as a grand juror based on the person's *indictment or* conviction for *misdemeanor theft or* a felony and send a copy of the list to:
(A) the secretary of state;
(B) the voter registrar for the county in which the grand jury is sitting; and
(C) 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 Subsection (a)(7), (8), or (9) [; (7); or (8)].

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

(C) [(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 Subsection (a)(2);
(2) a list of persons who in the preceding month were disqualified from serving as a grand juror based on the person's residency and send a copy of the list to:
(A) the secretary of state; and
(B) the voter registrar for the county in which the grand jury is sitting;
(3) a list of persons who in the preceding month were disqualified from serving as a grand juror based on the person's conviction for a felony and send a copy of the list to:
(A) the secretary of state;
(B) the voter registrar for the county in which the grand jury is sitting; and
(C) 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 Subsection (a)(8); and
(4) a list of persons who in the preceding month were disqualified from serving as a grand juror based on the person's indictment for a felony or indictment or conviction for misdemeanor theft and send a copy of the list to:
(A) the secretary of state; and
(B) 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 Subsection (a)(7) or (9) [; (7); or (8)].

CONFERENCE

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

SECTION 6.04. Article 19A.105, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended.

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

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

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

(c) The district clerk shall maintain a current register of the name of each person who resides in the county and who has claimed and is entitled to a permanent exemption from grand jury service because the person is 75 years of age or older.

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

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

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

SECTION 6.04. Same as Senate version.

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

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

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

(c) The district clerk shall maintain a current register of the name of each person who resides in the county and who has claimed and is entitled to a permanent exemption from grand jury service because the person is 75 years of age or older.

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

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

CONFERENCE

SECTION 6.04. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 6.05. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

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

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

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

(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;

(2) the voter registrar for the county in which the grand jury is sitting; and

(3) 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).

No equivalent provision.

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

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

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

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

(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

CONFERENCE

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

felony and send a copy of the list to the voter registrar for the county in which the grand jury is sitting.

SECTIONS 6.06-6.09.

SECTIONS 6.06-6.09. Same as Senate version.

SECTIONS 6.06-6.09. Same as Senate version.

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

(c) A person who files a statement with a clerk of the court, as provided by Subsection (a), claiming an exemption because the person is ~~[over]~~ 75 years of age or older, may also claim the permanent exemption on that ground authorized by Section 62.108 by including in the statement filed with the clerk a declaration that the person desires the permanent exemption. ~~The [Promptly after a statement claiming a permanent exemption on the basis of age is filed, the]~~ clerk of the court with whom the declaration [it] is filed shall notify [have a copy delivered to] the voter registrar of the county and the secretary of state.

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

(c) A person who files a statement with a clerk of the court, as provided by Subsection (a), claiming an exemption because the person is ~~[over]~~ 75 years of age or older, may also claim the permanent exemption on that ground authorized by Section 62.108 by including in the statement filed with the clerk a declaration that the person desires the permanent exemption. ~~The [Promptly after a statement claiming a permanent exemption on the basis of age is filed, the]~~ clerk of the court with whom the declaration [it] is filed shall notify the district clerk [have a copy delivered to the voter registrar of the county]. [FA2(16)]

SECTION 6.10. Same as House version.

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

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

(b) A person may claim a permanent exemption:

- (1) by filing with the district clerk [voter registrar] of the county, by mail or personal delivery, a signed statement affirming that the person is ~~[over]~~ 75 years of age or older and desires a permanent exemption on that ground; or
- (2) in the manner provided by Section 62.107(c).

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

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

(b) A person may claim a permanent exemption:

- (1) by filing with the district clerk [voter registrar] of the county, by mail or personal delivery, a signed statement affirming that the person is ~~[over]~~ 75 years of age or older and desires a permanent exemption on that ground; or
- (2) in the manner provided by Section 62.107(c).

SECTION 6.11. Same as House version, except makes technical correction in Subsection (e).

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

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

(c-1) On the third business day of each month, the district clerk shall prepare a list of persons who in the preceding month claimed and were entitled to a permanent exemption under this section or who rescinded an exemption under Subsection (e) and send a copy of the list to the secretary of state and the voter registrar of each county served by the clerk.

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

SECTIONS 6.12-6.14.

SECTION 6.15. Sections 62.115(c) and (d), Government Code, are amended 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:

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

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

(c-1) On the third business day of each month, the district clerk shall prepare a list of persons who in the preceding month claimed and were entitled to a permanent exemption under this section or who rescinded an exemption under Subsection (e) and send a copy of the list to the secretary of state.

(e) A person who has claimed a permanent exemption from jury service because the person is ~~[over]~~ 75 years of age or older may rescind the exemption at any time by filing a signed request for the rescission with the ***district clerk*** of the county. Rescission of a permanent exemption does not affect the right of a person who is ~~[over]~~ 75 years of age or older to claim permanent exemption at a later time. [FA2(17)]

SECTIONS 6.12-6.14. Same as Senate version.

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:

CONFERENCE

SECTIONS 6.12-6.14. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 6.15. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

(1) the secretary of state;
(2) the voter registrar of the county; and
(3) the prosecuting attorney for a court to which a person was summoned for investigation into whether the person made a false claim of qualification under Section 62.102(7) or (8) ~~[in the preceding month]~~.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 6.16. Saving provision, ARTICLE 6 changes.

ARTICLE 7. COURT ADMINISTRATION

No equivalent provision.

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

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

SECTION 6.16. Same as Senate version.

ARTICLE 7. Same heading as Senate version.

SECTION 7.____. (a) In this section:

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

(2) "Office" means the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System.

(b) The office shall conduct a study on digital court reporting, including:

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

CONFERENCE

SECTION 6.16. Same as Senate version

ARTICLE 7. Same heading as Senate version.

SECTION 7.32. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

(2) an analysis of the use of digital court reporting in other states and jurisdictions; and
(3) recommendations on any necessary changes to statutes, rules, regulations, or standards regarding the use of digital court reporting in this state.
(c) Not later than October 1, 2026, the office shall submit a report on the study conducted under this section to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and appropriate standing committees of the legislature.
(d) This section expires September 1, 2027. [FA2(22)]

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 7.____. Section 233.006(b), Election Code, is amended. [FA2(22)]

SECTION 7.01. Same as House version.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 7.____. Section 233.014, Election Code, is transferred to Subchapter 30, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, redesignated as Section 30.023, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, and amended. [FA2(22)]

SECTION 7.02. (a) Same as House version, except makes technical corrections.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 7.____. Section 233.014, Election Code, as redesignated and amended by this Act. [FA2(22)]

(b) Same as House version, except makes technical correction.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 7.____. Section 253.152(7), Election Code, is amended. [FA2(22)]

SECTION 7.03. Same as House version.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 7.____. Section 6.4035(e), Family Code, is amended. [FA2(22)]

SECTION 7.04. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.____. Section 406.026, Government Code, is amended. [FA2(22)]	SECTION 7.25. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.____. Section 6.4035(e), Family Code, and Section 406.026, Government Code, as amended by this article. [FA2(22)]	SECTION 7.33. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.01. The heading to Section 22.110, Government Code, is amended.	SECTION 7.05. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.02. Section 22.110, Government Code, is amended. [FA2(19)]	SECTION 7.06. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.____. (a) As soon as practicable after September 1, 2025, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals shall adopt the rules necessary to implement Section 22.110, Government Code, as amended by this article. (b) Section 22.110, Government Code, as amended by this article, applies to all judges, masters, referees, and magistrates elected, appointed, or holding office on or after September 1, 2025. [FA2(21)]	SECTION 7.34. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.02. Section 22.216(n-2), Government Code, is amended.	SECTION 7.07. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.03. Section 22.220, Government Code, is amended.	SECTION 7.08. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.06. Section 53.001(a), Government Code, is amended.	SECTION 7.11. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
SECTION 7.01. Section 57.002(d), Government Code, is amended.	SECTION 7.07. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 7.12. Same as Senate version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.08. Subchapter C, Chapter 71, Government Code, is amended.	SECTION 7.13. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.10. Section 72.016, Government Code, is amended. [FA2(20)]	SECTION 7.15. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.____. Section 74.024(d), Government Code, is amended. [FA2(22)]	SECTION 7.17. Same as House version.
SECTION 7.02. Section 72.083, Government Code, is amended.	SECTION 7.11. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 7.16. Same as Senate version.
SECTION 7.03. Section 74.051(c), Government Code, is amended.	SECTION 7.12. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 7.18. Same as Senate version.
SECTION 7.04. Section 74.091, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (b-2) to read as follows:	SECTION 7.13. Same as Senate version except as follows:	SECTION 7.19. Same as Senate version except as follows:
(b) In a county with two or more district courts the judges of those courts shall elect a district judge as local administrative district judge; (1) for a term of [not more than] two years; or (2) <u>if the district judge's term ends before the second anniversary of the date the district judge is elected as local administrative judge, for the remainder of the district judge's term.</u>	<u>(b)</u> Same as Senate version.	<u>(b)</u> Same as Senate version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
<u>(b-1)</u> The local administrative district judge may not be elected on the basis of rotation or seniority.	<u>(b-1)</u> Same as Senate version.	<u>(b-1)</u> Same as Senate version.
<u>(b-2) If a majority of the judges cannot agree on the selection of a judge to serve as local administrative district judge, one of the judges shall notify the regional presiding judge who shall cast the deciding vote. A local administrative judge elected under this subsection shall serve for a term, set by the regional presiding judge, of not more than two years.</u>	<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	Same as House version.
SECTION 7.05. Chapter 74, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D-1, relating to a court leadership conference and related reimbursement by the Office of Court Administration to certain individuals for attending the conference.	SECTION 7.16. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 7.22. Same as Senate version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.___. Section 75.001(d), Government Code, is amended. [FA1,3rd]	SECTION 7.23. Same as House version.
SECTION 7.06. Section 121.002(c), Government Code, is amended.	SECTION 7.17. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 7.24. Same as Senate version.
SECTION 7.07. Section 659.012, Government Code, is amended.	SECTION 7.18. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 7.26. Same as Senate version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.___. Section 118.011(a), Local Government Code, is amended. [FA2(22)]	SECTION 7.28. Same as House version.
SECTION 7.08. Section 74.051(b), Government Code, is repealed.	SECTION 7.22. Sections 53.001(i), 53.009(d), and 74.051(b), Government Code, are repealed.	SECTION 7.31. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.24. Saving provision, Section 22.220(e), Government Code, as added.	SECTION 7.35. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.25. Section 53.001, Government Code, as amended by this article, does not apply to a bailiff appointed by the judge of the 341st or 406th district court before September 1, 2025. A bailiff appointed by the judge of the 341st or 406th district court before that date shall continue to serve and receive compensation from Webb County in the same manner as before that date and shall be eligible to receive any longevity or cost of living salary increases available to a bailiff serving in Webb County before that date. The former law is continued in effect for the purposes of this section. [FA2(23)-(24)]	SECTION 7.36. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 7.26. Not later than September 1, 2026, the Texas Judicial Council shall prescribe the information, and form and manner of submission, a prosecuting attorney in this state is required to report under Section 71.0354, Government Code, as added by this article.	SECTION 7.37. Same as House version.
SECTION 7.09. Section 74.091, Government Code, as amended by this article, applies only to a local administrative judge elected on or after September 1, 2025.	<i>No equivalent provision.</i> SECTION 7.27. [Deleted by FA2(25)]	Same as House version.
ARTICLE 8. COURT CLERKS	ARTICLE 8. COPIES CERTIFIED BY CLERKS	ARTICLE 8. Same heading as House version.
SECTION 8.01. Subchapter D, Chapter 51, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 51.3033 to read as follows:	SECTION 8.01. Subchapter D, Chapter 51, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 51.3033 to read as follows:	SECTION 8.01. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

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; **and**

(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; **and**

(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.

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

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**

(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.

CONFERENCE

SECTION 8.02. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

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

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

(1) on each page of the copy:

(A) the clerk's signature or initials;

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

(C) either:

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

(ii) the court seal on a copy of a court document; 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.

ARTICLE 9. YOUTH DIVERSION

SECTIONS 9.01-9.03.

No equivalent provision.

SECTIONS 9.04-9.05.

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

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

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

(1) on each page of the copy:

(A) *either:*

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

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

(B) either:

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

(ii) the court seal on a copy of a court document; 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.

ARTICLE 9. Same heading as Senate version.

SECTIONS 9.01-9.03. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 9.____. Section 82.004, Family Code, is amended.
[FA2(26)]

SECTIONS 9.04-9.05. Same as Senate version.

CONFERENCE

SECTION 8.03. Same as House version.

ARTICLE 9. Same heading as Senate version.

SECTIONS 9.01-9.03. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 9.04. Same as House version.

SECTIONS 9.04-9.05. Same as Senate version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
SECTION 9.06. Section 53.01(b-1), Family Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to conduct that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act. Conduct that occurs before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the conduct occurred, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For the purposes of this section, conduct occurred before the effective date of this Act if any element of the conduct occurred before that date.	SECTION 9.06. Section 53.01(b-1), Family Code, as amended by this article, applies only to conduct that occurs on or after September 1, 2025. Conduct that occurs before September 1, 2025, is governed by the law in effect on the date the conduct occurred, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For the purposes of this section, conduct occurred before September 1, 2025, if any element of the conduct occurred before that date.	SECTION 9.06. Same as House version.
ARTICLE 10. JUVENILE BOARDS	ARTICLE 10. Same heading as Senate version.	ARTICLE 10. Same heading as Senate version.
SECTION 10.01. Section 152.0191(a), Human Resources Code, is amended.	SECTION 10.01. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 10.01. Same as Senate version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 10.02. Section 152.0521(a), Human Resources Code, is amended.	SECTION 10.02. Same as House version.
SECTIONS 10.02-10.03.	SECTIONS 10.03-10.04. Same as Senate version.	SECTIONS 10.03-10.04. Same as Senate version.
ARTICLE 11. MISCELLANEOUS COURT PROVISIONS	ARTICLE 11. CIVIL CRIMINAL COURT PROCEDURES AND SECURITY	ARTICLE 11. Same heading as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 11.01. Section 16.073, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended.	SECTION 11.01. Same as House version.
SECTION 11.01. 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	SECTION 11.02. Same as Senate version except omits requirement to provide written notice to the court clerk of, as an alternative to the last three digits of the party's social	SECTION 11.02. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

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;

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

(3) the party's date of birth.

(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 answered in the civil action.

SECTION 11.02. Articles 45A.302(b), (c), and (d), Code of Criminal Procedure, are amended.

SECTION 11.03. Article 102.017, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

(e-1) In administering or directing funds under Subsection (e), a commissioners court shall **prioritize** the recommendations provided by a court security committee under Section 74.092(b), Government Code, and the governing body of a municipality shall **prioritize** the recommendations provided by a court security committee under Sections 29.014(d) and 30.00007(c), Government Code.

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

security number or driver's license number, *the party's date of birth.*

SECTION 11.03. Same as Senate version.

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

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

CONFERENCE

SECTION 11.03. Same as Senate version.

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

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

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION

SECTION 11.04. 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 the information or court.

No equivalent ARTICLE heading.

SECTIONS 11.05-11.06.

SECTION 11.07. Section 51.903(d), Government Code, is amended.

SECTION 11.08. Section 72.015(c), Government Code, is amended.

SECTIONS 11.09-11.10.

HOUSE VERSION (IE)

SECTION 13.04. Same as Senate version except additionally authorizes disclosure to *a criminal justice agency, as defined by Section 411.082* [FA2(34)]

ARTICLE 12. MUNICIPAL COURT PROVISIONS

SECTIONS 12.01-12.02. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 7.05. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 7.09. Same as Senate version.

SECTIONS 7.14-7.15. Same as Senate version.

CONFERENCE

SECTION 13.08. Same as House version.

ARTICLE 12. Same heading as House version.

SECTIONS 12.01-12.02. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 7.10. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 7.14. Same as Senate version.

SECTIONS 7.20-7.21. Same as Senate version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
SECTION 11.11. Section 51.303, Government Code, is amended.	SECTION 7.04. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 7.09. Same as Senate version.
SECTION 11.12. Section 574.001(b), Health and Safety Code, is amended.	SECTION 7.19. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 7.27. Same as Senate version.
SECTIONS 11.13-11.14.	SECTIONS 7.20-7.21. Same as Senate version.	SECTIONS 7.29-7.30. Same as Senate version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 12.03. Section 30.01014(d), Government Code, is amended.	SECTION 12.03. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 12.04. Chapter 30, Government Code, is amended.	SECTION 12.04. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent ARTICLE heading.</i>	ARTICLE 13. MISCELLANEOUS COURT, RECORD, CANDIDACY, AND ELECTION PROVISIONS	ARTICLE 13. Same heading as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.__. Articles 43.09(a) and (k), Code of Criminal Procedure, are amended. [FA2(52)]	SECTION 13.01. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.__. Article 45A.251(e), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended. [FA2(52)]	SECTION 13.02. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.__. Article 45A.254(e), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended. [FA2(52)]	SECTION 13.03. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.__. Article 45A.459(i), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended. [FA2(52)]	SECTION 13.04. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.__. Article 45A.460(i), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended. [FA2(52)]	SECTION 13.05. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.01. The heading to Section 13.0021, Election Code, is amended. [FA2(27)]	SECTION 13.06. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.02. Section 13.0021(b), Election Code, is amended. [FA2(31)-(32)]	SECTION 13.07. Same as House version.
No equivalent provision.	SECTION 13.03. Section 141.001(a), Election Code, is amended: [Deleted by FA2(33)]	Same as Senate version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.15. Saving provision, Section 141.001(a), Election Code, as amended.	Same as Senate version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.05. Section 301.052(a), Family Code, is amended.	SECTION 13.09. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.____. Section 81.113(a), Government Code, is amended. [FA2(52)]	SECTION 13.10. (a) Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.____. Saving provision, Section 81.113, Government Code, as amended. [FA2(52)]	(b) Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.06. Section 552.117, Government Code, is amended. [FA2(37)]	SECTION 13.11. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.07. Section 552.1175, Government Code, is amended. [FA2(38)-(39)], [FA2(40)]	SECTION 13.12. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
SECTION 11.15. Section 42.07, Penal Code, is amended. Among other provisions, Subdivision (1-a) is added to read as follows: (1) <u>"Court employee" means an employee whose duties relate to court administration, including a court clerk, court coordinator, court administrator, law clerk, or staff attorney. The term does not include a judge.</u>	SECTION 13.08. Same as Senate version except includes a <i>juvenile case manager</i> as a "court employee." [FA2(41)]	SECTION 13.13. Same as House version.
SECTIONS 11.16-11.17. <i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTIONS 13.09-13.10. Same as Senate version. SECTION 13.11. Section 25.025(a), Tax Code, as amended by Chapters 76 (S.B. 617), 152 (S.B. 870), 430 (H.B. 1911), 765 (H.B. 4504), and 937 (S.B. 1525), Acts of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, is reenacted and further amended. [FA2(42)-(43)], [FA2(44)]	SECTIONS 13.14-13.15. Same as Senate version. SECTION 13.16. Same as Senate version.
SECTION 11.18. Section 34.03(a), Tax Code, is amended. <i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.12. Same as Senate version. SECTION 13.13. Section 521.121, Transportation Code, is amended: [FA2(46)], [FA2(47)-(51)]	SECTION 13.17. Same as Senate version. SECTION 3.18. Same as House version.
SECTION 11.19. Section 521.243(a), Transportation Code, is amended.	SECTION 13.14. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 13.19. Same as Senate version.
SECTION 11.20. 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.	SECTION 7.28. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 7.38. Same as Senate version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.__. Saving provision, Article 43.09(a), Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended. [FA2(52)]	SECTION 13.20. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.__. Saving provision, Articles 43.09(k), 45A.254(e), 45A.459(i), and 45A.460(i), Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended. [FA2(52)]	SECTION 13.21. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.__. Saving provision, Article 45A.251(e), Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended. [FA2(52)]	SECTION 13.22. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.16. Saving provision, Section 301.052(a), Family Code, as amended. .	SECTION 13.23. Same as House version.
SECTION 11.21. (a) Saving provision, Article 42.07, Penal Code, as amended.	SECTION 13.17. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 13.24. Same as Senate version.
(b) As soon as practicable after <i>the effective date of this article</i> , a court security committee shall develop a court emergency management plan as required by Section 29.014, 30.00007, <i>or 74.092, Government Code</i> , as amended by this article.	SECTION 12.05. As soon as practicable after <i>September 1, 2025</i> , 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.	SECTION 12.05. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION 13.18. Not later than November 1, 2026, the Department of Public Safety shall: (1) review the department's processes for implementation of and compliance with Section 521.121, Transportation Code, as amended by this Act; and (2) submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, each member of the legislature, and the Texas Judicial Council a written report containing the results of the review, a description of the	SECTION 13.25. Same as House version.

Senate Bill 2878
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

SENATE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
	methods used to prepare the review, and any recommendations for legislative or other action.	
<i>No equivalent ARTICLE heading.</i>	ARTICLE __. MANDATORY EXPUNCTION FOR CERTAIN PERSONS; RETENTION OF CERTAIN RECORDS [FA4]	ARTICLE 14. Same heading as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION __.____. Article 55A.203, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended. [FA4]	SECTION 14.01. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION __.____. Subchapter E, Chapter 55A, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended. [FA4]	SECTION 14.02. Same as House version.
<i>No equivalent provision.</i>	SECTION __.____. Subchapter H, Chapter 55A, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended. [FA4]	SECTION 14.03. Same as House version.
ARTICLE 12. CONFLICT; EFFECTIVE DATE	ARTICLE 14. Same heading as Senate version.	ARTICLE 15. Same heading as Senate version.
SECTION 12.01. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over another Act of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted codes.	SECTION 14.01. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 15.01. Same as Senate version.
SECTION 12.02. Effective date.	SECTION 14.02. Same as Senate version.	SECTION 15.02. Same as Senate version.

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 30, 2025

TO: Honorable Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor, Senate
Honorable Dustin Burrows, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: **SB2878** by Hughes (Relating to the operation and administration of and practices and procedures related to proceedings in the judicial branch of state government, including court security, court documents and arrest warrants, document delivery, juvenile boards, constitutional amendment election challenges, mandatory expunction for certain persons, record retention, and youth diversion; increasing a criminal penalty; authorizing fees.), **Conference Committee Report**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for SB2878, Conference Committee Report: a negative impact of (\$6,101,120) through the biennium ending August 31, 2027.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five- Year Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to <i>General Revenue Related Funds</i>
2026	(\$2,531,343)
2027	(\$3,569,777)
2028	(\$3,601,439)
2029	(\$4,331,791)
2030	(\$4,931,073)

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	Probable Savings/(Cost) from <i>General Revenue Fund</i> 1	Probable Savings/(Cost) from <i>Judicial Fund</i> 573	Probable Savings/(Cost) from <i>Other Special State Funds</i> 998	<i>Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2025</i>
2026	(\$2,531,343)	(\$77,345)	(\$17,563)	9.0
2027	(\$3,569,777)	(\$112,420)	(\$25,528)	15.0
2028	(\$3,601,439)	(\$113,448)	(\$25,761)	15.0
2029	(\$4,331,791)	(\$128,466)	(\$29,171)	18.0
2030	(\$4,931,073)	(\$139,369)	(\$31,647)	19.0

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would amend various chapters of the Government Code as it relates to district courts, statutory county courts, visiting judges, criminal law magistrates, business courts, jurors, and court administration.

The bill would amend the Government Code to create new judicial districts in: Brazoria County, the 490th

Judicial District to be created on September 1, 2026; Colorado and Lavaca Counties, the 492nd Judicial District to be created on September 1, 2026; Fort Bend County, the 501st and 502nd Judicial Districts to be created September 1, 2025; Rockwall County, the 503rd Judicial District to be created on September 1, 2025; Ellis County, the 504th Judicial District to be created on September 1, 2025; Comal County, the 511th Judicial District to be created on September 1, 2026; Williamson County, the 512th Judicial District to be created on September 1, 2025; Harris County, the 513th, 514th, and 515th Judicial Districts to be created on October 1, 2025; and Harris County, the 516th and 517th Judicial Districts to be created on October 1, 2026. The bill would rename and revise the composition of the 522nd Judicial District and the 274th Judicial District.

The bill would create Place 4 and Place 5 of the 15th Court of Appeals beginning respectively on September 1, 2028, and September 1, 2029.

The bill would revise the jurisdiction of the office of the district attorney for the 1st Judicial District and revise the electorate of the 293rd Judicial District. The bill would create a new office of the district attorney for the 273rd Judicial District on January 1, 2029 and a new office of the district attorney for the 365th Judicial District on January 1, 2029. The bill would add Fayette County to the list of county attorneys that are subject to the Professional Prosecutors Act.

The bill would increase the amount in controversy limit in civil actions filed in statutory county courts from \$250,000 to \$325,000.

The bill would require each county to pay to the presiding judge an amount to cover the salary and expenses of the statutory probate court (if any) from the Judicial Education and Support Fund.

The bill would revise the jurisdiction, county pay and operations of statutory county courts in Aransas, Atascosa, Bowie, Hidalgo, Montgomery, Potter, Tom Green, and Wichita Counties as well as the 2nd Multicounty Court at Law. The bill would create in Hidalgo County, Probate Court No. 2 on September 1, 2026. The bill would create a new statutory county court at law in Harris County on September 1, 2025.

The bill would authorize the presiding judge of the statutory probate courts to assign a former or retired justice of an appellate court to hear certain cases and would permit a former or retired justice of an appellate court to be assigned by the presiding judge to hold court. The bill would provide that a former or retired judge or justice assigned under Section 25.0022 Government Code to a constitutional county court in a county in the Texas-Mexico border region is entitled to compensation equal to the maximum salary a district judge may receive from county and state sources under certain conditions.

The bill would provide that a former or retired judge or justice serving on assignment for an appellate court is entitled to compensation equal to the salary of a court of appeals justice with eight years of service. The bill would provide that a former or retired judge or justice assigned as a judicial mentor is entitled to the same salary, compensation, and expenses that the judge or justice would be entitled to if they had been assigned under Chapter 74 to serve as judge of the trial court in the administrative judicial region. The bill would provide that the salary of a former or 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 state salary paid to a district judge with eight years of service.

The bill would require certain prosecutors to report certain information to the Texas Judicial Council.

The bill would revise the qualifications to be a master, magistrate, referee, or associate judge. The bill would create magistrates in Bell County and Denton or Grayson County.

Under the provisions of the bill, a judge of a division of the business court would be entitled to an additional annual salary from the state in an amount equal to the difference between the judge's annual base salary from the state and the maximum combined base salary from all state and county sources paid to a district judge.

The bill would require the district clerk to prepare a list of certain persons disqualified from serving as a grand juror and send a copy of the list to certain officials. The bill would revise the qualifications to be a juror and the requirements for documenting and transmitting names of persons ineligible to be jurors.

The bill would provide that certain courts may appoint a spoken language interpreter who is not a certified or licensed court interpreter under certain conditions.

The bill would amend the compensation structure for presiding judges of the administrative judicial regions to provide that their salary is based on the number of district courts, business courts, and statutory county courts in the administrative region, the number of associate judges appointed under Chapter 201, Family Code, and the number of retired and former judges named on the list maintained under Section 74.055, Government Code, for the administrative region. The bill amends the term of and process for selecting a district judge as local administrative district judge in a county with two or more district courts.

The bill would require the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to hold an annual leadership conference to provide information to certain judges and court administrators and would authorize OCA to reimburse attendees.

The bill would prohibit a specialty court program from operating unless certain conditions were met.

The bill would amend the compensation structure for a district judge serving as local administrative district judge to provide that the judge's salary is based on the number of district courts in the county. The bill would provide that a judge of a division of the business court who serves as administrative presiding judge is entitled to an annual base salary of a district judge with the same tenure and an additional 7 percent of the annual base salary.

The bill would require judicial training to include training on elder abuse and neglect.

The bill would revise the composition of the juvenile boards of Bee County, Live Oak County, and McMullen County.

The bill would increase the criminal penalty for the offense of harassment from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor if committed against a court employee. The offense would be increased to a state jail felony if committed against a court employee and the actor has been previously convicted of the offense or committed against a judge, and a third-degree felony if committed against a judge and the actor has been previously convicted of the offense.

The bill would revise the membership and duties of a court security committee established by a local administrative judge.

Methodology

Costs assumed by this analysis that are reflected in the table above are based on information provided by OCA and the Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA).

This analysis assumes the cost of thirteen district judges, two appellate court judges, two district attorneys, one new statutory probate court, one new statutory county court, the addition of one district attorney to the Professional Prosecutors Act, related benefit and expense costs, compensation for judicial mentorship, the revision to the local administrative district judge additional annual salary, and the additional state salary for business court judges. For the purposes of this analysis, judicial and prosecutorial salaries are based on the current annual base salary of a district judge, or \$140,000.

According to CPA, the agency would require \$1,085,000 in General Revenue in fiscal year 2026 to cover judicial salaries for the eight district courts proposed to be established that year, this includes the prorated amount for three district courts that would be created on October 1, 2025. In fiscal year 2027, an additional \$256,667 would be the prorated amount needed for two additional district courts that would be created on October 1, 2026; an additional \$420,000 for the three district courts proposed to be established that year; and an additional \$35,000 for the three prorated courts created in fiscal year 2026, for a total of \$1,796,667. The agency also anticipates \$15,500 in fiscal year 2026 and \$25,667 in fiscal year 2027 for travel expenses for judges.

CPA would require \$55,500 each fiscal year for additional salary and expense supplement for the Fayette

County district attorney.

CPA would require \$84,000 each fiscal year for the statutory county court in Harris County that would be created on September 1, 2025.

In fiscal year 2027, CPA would require \$84,000 for the statutory probate court in Hidalgo County that would be created on September 1, 2026.

CPA would require \$143,745 each fiscal year for compensation for the judicial mentorship program, and \$233,800 each fiscal year to provide additional state compensation to local administrative district judges.

CPA indicates that the provisions of the bill that authorize additional compensation to visiting judges serving in the Texas-Mexico border region cannot be estimated because the extent to which exigent circumstances would require visiting judges is unknown.

Under Government Code Ch. 659, a district judge may receive a county-funded additional annual salary of up to \$18,000 per fiscal year. This analysis assumes 10.0 business court judges (2.0 per each of five statutorily created courts) would be eligible for the \$18,000 additional annual salary provided under the provisions of the bill, resulting in an additional \$180,000 in General Revenue per fiscal year.

According to OCA, the agency would require \$158,669 each fiscal year to implement a Court Leadership conference and provide reimbursements to attendees and \$40,000 in fiscal year 2026 to add data fields to the court electronic reporting system to facilitate the reporting of certain information by prosecutors.

Benefits include the 19.25 percent state contribution to the Judicial Retirement System Plan 2 of \$337,750 in fiscal year 2026 and \$490,915 in fiscal year 2027 in All Funds as well as state contributions for the ERS retirement plan, Social Security, and agency payroll contributions for retirement and health insurance of \$292,287 in fiscal year 2026 and \$454,762 in fiscal year 2027 in All Funds.

The impact on state correctional populations or on the demand for state correctional resources cannot be determined due to the lack of data to estimate the prevalence of conduct outlined in the bill's provisions that would be subject to increased criminal penalties.

Technology

These costs include technology impacts of \$40,000 in fiscal year 2026 for OCA to add data fields to the Court Analytics system.

Local Government Impact

There could be an impact on units of local government associated with the provisions of the bill governing local court functions and operations. Local governments pay the other operating costs associated with a district court, county court at law, and statutory probate court.

While the fiscal impact cannot be determined, increasing the penalty for an existing offense may result in increased demands upon local correctional resources due to a possible increase in the number of individuals placed under supervision in the community or sentenced to a term of confinement.

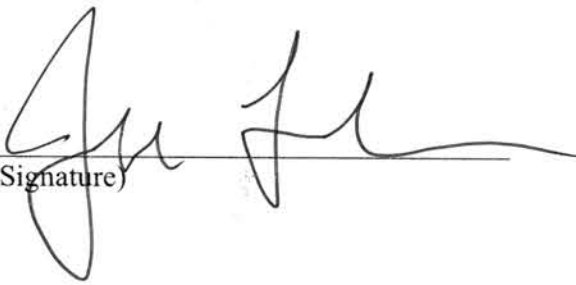
Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts, 307 Secretary of State, 327 Employees Retirement System, 405 Department of Public Safety, 530 Family and Protective Services, Department of

LBB Staff: JMc, CMA, DA, NTh, KDw, NV

**Certification of Compliance with
Rule 13, Section 6(b), House Rules of Procedure**

Rule 13, Section 6(b), House Rules of Procedure, requires that a copy of a conference committee report signed by a majority of each committee of the conference be furnished to each member of the committee in person or, if unable to deliver in person, by placing a copy in the member's newspaper mailbox at least one hour before the report is furnished to each member of the house under Rule 13, Section 10(a). The paper copies of the report submitted to the chief clerk under Rule 13, Section 10(b), must contain a certificate that the requirement of Rule 13, Section 6(b), has been satisfied, and that certificate must be attached to the copy of the report furnished to each member under Rule 13, Section 10(d). Failure to comply with this requirement is not a sustainable point of order.

I certify that a copy of the conference committee report on SB 2878 was furnished to each member of the conference committee in compliance with Rule 13, Section 6(b), House Rules of Procedure, before paper copies of the report were submitted to the chief clerk under Rule 13, Section 10(b), House Rules of Procedure.


(Signature)

5/30/25
(Date)