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AN ACT

relating to the seal of a district court and the signature of the district clerk used on process issued by the court.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 51.301, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.301. VACANCY; BOND; SEAL; SIGNATURE OF CLERK.

SECTION 2. Section 51.301, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (e) and (f) to read as follows:

(d) Each district clerk shall be provided with a seal for the district court. The seal must have a five-pointed star and must be engraved with the words "District Court of _____ County, Texas." The seal shall be impressed on all process issued by the court except subpoenas and shall be kept and used by the clerk to authenticate official acts. The seal may be created using an electronic means, including by using an optical disk or another electronic reproduction technique, if the means by which the seal is impressed on an original document created using the same type of electronic means does not allow for changes, additions, or deletions to be made to the document.

(e) The signature of the district clerk may be affixed on an original document using electronic means, provided that the means by which the signature is affixed meets the requirements of

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S.B. No. 229

1 Subsection (d) with respect to creating a seal by electronic means.

2 (f) A seal impressed or a signature affixed by electronic
3 means may be delivered or transmitted electronically.

4 SECTION 3. Section 51.301, Government Code, as amended by
5 this Act, applies to a process, other than a subpoena, issued by a
6 district court on or after the effective date of this Act. A
7 process issued by a district court before the effective date of this
8 Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the process was
9 issued, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

S.B. No. 229

David Newkirk
President of the Senate

Jim Caddick
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 229 passed the Senate on March 14, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on April 23, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Letsy Grew
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 229 passed the House, with amendment, on April 19, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

May 4, 2007
Date

Rick Perry
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
10:35 O'CLOCK

Roger Williams
Secretary of State