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AN ACT

relating to eviction suits in justice courts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 24.0051, Property Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) In a suit to recover possession of the premises, whether or not unpaid rent is claimed, the citation required by Rule 739, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, must include the following notice to the defendant:

FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR TRIAL MAY RESULT IN A DEFAULT JUDGMENT BEING ENTERED AGAINST YOU.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a suit to recover possession of premises filed on or after the effective date of this Act. A suit 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.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

[Signature]
President of the Senate

[Signature]
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 439 passed the Senate on March 31, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0. _____

[Signature]
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 439 passed the House on May 20, 2005, by a non-record vote. _____

[Signature]
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

17 JUNE '05
Date

Rick Perry
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
11:20 AM O'CLOCK

JUN 17 2005
[Signature]
Secretary of State