

1 AN ACT

2 relating to postponement of jury service in certain counties.

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

4 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 62, Government Code, is
5 amended by adding Section 62.0147 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 62.0147. MEANS OF POSTPONEMENT OF JURY SERVICE IN
7 CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a county that
8 has:

9 (1) a council of judges composed of the judges of the
10 district courts and county courts at law; and

11 (2) a designated jury duty court that addresses
12 administrative matters related to jury service paid for by the
13 county.

14 (b) A person summoned for jury service may request a
15 postponement of the person's initial appearance for jury service.
16 The person may request the postponement by contacting the council
17 of judges' designee, in person, in writing, or by telephone before
18 the date on which the person is summoned to appear.

19 (c) On receipt of a request under Subsection (b), the
20 council of judges' designee shall grant the person a postponement
21 if:

22 (1) the person has not been granted a postponement in
23 that county since the date on which the jury wheel from which the
24 person was selected to appear was most recently reconstituted; and

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1 (2) the designee and the person determine a substitute
2 date on which the person will appear for jury service that is not
3 later than six months after the date on which the person was
4 originally summoned to appear.

5 (d) A person who is granted a postponement under Subsection
6 (c) may request additional postponements in the manner described by
7 Subsection (b). The council of judges' designee may grant an
8 additional postponement if the designee and the person determine
9 that the person has a legitimate reason for the postponement.
10 Before the designee may grant the additional postponement, the
11 designee and the person must determine a date on which the person
12 will appear for jury service that is not later than six months after
13 the date on which the person was to appear after the later of the
14 date of:

- 15 (1) a postponement under Subsection (c); or
- 16 (2) the last postponement granted under this
- 17 subsection.

18 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
19 to a person summoned to appear for jury service who is required to
20 appear on or after the effective date of this Act. A person
21 summoned to appear for jury service who is required to appear before
22 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on
23 the date the person is required to appear, and the former law is
24 continued in effect for that purpose.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

12a
See

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David Dewhurst
President of the Senate

Joe Straus
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1195 passed the Senate on April 11, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0, _____

Patsy Spaw
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1195 passed the House on May 5, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, one present not voting _____

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

19 MAY 11
Date

RICK PERRY
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
5:30pm O'CLOCK

Boyd Rutherford
Secretary of State