

Relating to the administration of unclaimed property.

Summary: Requires the clerk of the court that orders an executor or administrator to pay funds to the comptroller, to provide notification by certified mail or e-mail instead of by personal service of citation.

Amends the Estates Code, § 551.005(b).

HB 1831

Effective Date: 5/15/21

House Author: Rogers

Senate Sponsor: Buckingham

Relating to annual continuing education requirements for certain court clerks.

Summary: County and district clerks may carry over from the current calendar year to the following year not more than 10 hours of completed continuing education courses that exceed the 20 hours of continuing education required each year.

Amends the Government Code, §51.605, by adding Subsection (d).

HB 3774

Effective Date: 9/01/21 (See Remarks on effective dates.)

House Author: Leach, et al.

Senate Sponsor: Huffman

Relating to the operation and administration of and practice and procedure related to proceedings in the judicial branch of state government.

Summary: Makes numerous changes to the state's court system, amending both the Government Code and the Family Code:

- Creates Judicial District Courts in the counties of Bell, Cameron, Denton and Hays (effective Sept. 1, 2022); Harris, Hidalgo, McLennan and Smith (effective Jan. 1, 2023); Tarrant (effective Jan. 1, 2022); and Williamson (effective Oct. 1, 2022).
- Creates a Probate Court in Denton County. Provides that the County Court at Law No. 2 of Denton County has jurisdiction over all proceedings for eminent domain and direct and inverse condemnation cases.
- Increases the amount the state reimburses counties with statutory probate judges from \$40,000 annually to an annual amount equal to 60% of the annual base salary of a district judge.
- Creates County Courts at Law in Kendall County (effective Oct. 1, 2022) and McLennan, Montgomery and San Patricio counties (effective Jan. 1, 2023).

- Creates Brazoria County Criminal Magistrate Court, over which the commissioners court of Brazoria County, upon recommendation of the local administrative judge, may appoint one or more full or part-time criminal magistrates to preside. Allows for the judges of the district courts of Tom Green County, with the consent and approval of the commissioners court of Tom Green County, to jointly appoint the number of magistrates set by the commissioners court.
- Permits a judge or magistrate of a district court or statutory county court, who is authorized to hear criminal cases, to be appointed to preside over a regional specialty court program in certain circumstances.
- Requires clerks of the courts to use electronic filing systems to transfer cases and documents between courts. The Office of Court Administration is required to promulgate a transfer form in cooperation with the clerks' association. Amends the Family Code: § 155.207; § 51.3071; and § 51.403. Adds Government Code, § 72.037.
- Allows a juror to donate the amount of their juror reimbursement to a veteran's treatment program or a veteran's county service office established by the commissioners court. Amends Government Code, §§ 61.003(a) and (c).
- Changes the amount a judge is authorized to spend per meal for a juror serving on a jury in a civil case from \$3 to a "reasonable amount." Amends Government Code, § 62.020(b).
- Reduces the annual salary supplement affidavit requirement for a county judge from 40% to 18%. To receive the supplement, a county judge must certify that at least 18% of the functions the judge performs are judicial functions or that at least 18% of the judge's work hours are in the performance of judicial functions.

**Remarks: This Act takes effect September 1, 2021, except Sections 1.01, 1.03, 1.05, and 2.04(a) take effect January 1, 2022; Sections 1.06 and 1.10 take effect September 1, 2022; Sections 1.04, 1.08, 2.05, and 2.11 take effect October 1, 2022; and Sections 1.09, 2.09, and 2.10 take effect January 1, 2023. Refer to bill for additional information on effective dates.*

SB 30
Effective Date: 9/01/21

Senate Author: West, et al.
House Sponsor: Leach, et al.

Relating to the removal of certain discriminatory provisions from a recorded conveyance instrument.

Summary: Amends the Property Code to authorize a property owner or a person who has an interest in real property to request removal of discriminatory language in a conveyance document or instrument by completing and filing an affidavit form with the district clerk in the county where the real property is located, or with the clerk of another court having jurisdiction over the real property, requesting removal of the offensive language. The court, after reviewing, will issue a finding of fact and conclusion of law, which the court clerk will transfer to the county clerk for recording and indexing in the subject conveyance instrument or document filed. SB 30 prohibits the county clerk from collecting a fee for the filing.

SB 1179

Effective Date: 9/01/21

Senate Author: Birdwell

House Sponsor: Anderson

Relating to the procedure for donating juror reimbursements.

Summary: List of entities for jurors to donate to shall be expanded to include a veteran's treatment court program. After jury service has concluded, each person who reported for service be given a form letter to donate all or part of their daily jury reimbursement pay to a veteran's treatment court program.

Amends Government Code, §§ 61.003 (a) and (e).

SB 456

Effective Date: 9/01/21

Senate Author: Lucio

House Sponsor: Leach

Relating to the donation of juror reimbursements.

Summary: Adds veterans county service offices to the list of entities to which a juror may donate their daily reimbursement pay for jury service.

Amends Government Code, §§ 61.003 (a) and (c).
