

CHAPTER 977

H.B. No. 2325

An Act relating to the appointment and assignment of bailiffs to certain district courts of Harris County.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. OFFICE OF BAILIFF. The judges of the 245th, 246th, 247th, 257th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311th, and 312th family district courts shall appoint a person to serve their respective courts as bailiff. A bailiff is an officer of the court and performs the duties of the office under the direction and supervision of the judge of the court.

SECTION 2. APPOINTMENT. An order signed by the appointing judge and entered on the minutes of the court is evidence of appointment of a bailiff. The judge shall give written notice to the commissioner's court and each constable of Harris County of the appointment and date employed.

SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS. A bailiff must be a citizen of the United States of America and must be 19 years of age. On written notice of the appointment from the judge, a constable of said county may deputize the bailiff in addition to other deputies authorized by law.

SECTION 4. OATH OF OFFICE. The following oath must be administered by the appointing judge to the bailiff appointed under this act: "I solemnly swear that I will perform faithfully and impartially all duties required of me and required by law so help me God."

SECTION 5. TERM OF OFFICE. The bailiff holds office at the will of the judge of the court served by the bailiff.

SECTION 6. DUTIES. A bailiff shall perform the duties imposed on bailiffs under the general laws of the State of Texas and the other duties required by the judge of the court served.

SECTION 7. COMPENSATION. The bailiff shall be compensated out of the general fund of the county in an amount to be set by the Commissioners Court of Harris County.

SECTION 8. EMERGENCY. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on April 24, 1985, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 21, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Filed: June 16, 1985, without signature.

Effective: August 26, 1985