

CHAPTER 295

S.B. No. 285

An Act relating to the designation by office and place of the justices of the Court of Appeals for the Second Supreme Judicial District; adding Article 1812b to Title 39, Revised Statutes.

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

SECTION 1. Title 39, Revised Statutes, is amended by adding Article 1812b to read as follows:

“Article 1812b. OFFICES AND PLACES OF THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME JUDICIAL DISTRICT. (a) The Court of Appeals for the Second Supreme Judicial District is composed of a chief justice and of six associate justices holding places numbered consecutively beginning with Place 2.

“(b) The designation of offices and places under this article identifies the offices and places for all purposes, including identification on official ballots for primary and general elections notwithstanding Section 236, Texas Election Code (Article 13.59, Vernon’s Texas Election Code).

“(c) A vacancy in the office of justice of the Court of Appeals for the Second Supreme Judicial District shall be filled by designation of office, and in the case of an associate justice, by designation of place.

“(d) The court by a majority vote of its members shall promulgate rules establishing a seniority system to determine which office and place is held by each member of the court. The chief justice shall file the names and place numbers of the court members with the secretary of state and the clerk of the court.

“(e) If any additional offices of justices of the court are created, the designation for those offices shall be in consecutive numerical order beginning with Place 8. If two or more offices of associate justice are created to take effect the same date, and the legislature does not specify places for those offices, the court shall by rule determine places for each office. If the court does not determine places before a person is appointed or elected to fill the initial vacancy, the places are determined by the seniority system established as provided by Subsection (d) of this article.”

SECTION 2. The Court of Appeals for the Second Supreme Judicial District shall establish the seniority system and designate the places of the associate justices as required by Subsection (d) of Article 1812, as added by this Act, not later than the 10th day after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. 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.

Passed the Senate on March 4, 1985, by a viva-voce vote; passed the House on May 17, 1985, by a non-record vote.

Approved: June 7, 1985

Effective: August 26, 1985