

CHAPTER 468

H.B. No. 567

AN ACT

relating to criminal law masters in Jefferson County.

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

SECTION 1. Article 2.09, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 2.09. WHO ARE MAGISTRATES. Each of the following officers is a magistrate within the meaning of this Code: The justices of the Supreme Court, the judges of the Court of Criminal Appeals, the justices of the Courts of Appeals, the judges of the District Court, the magistrates appointed by the judges of the district courts of Bexar County, Dallas County, or Tarrant County that give preference to criminal cases, the magistrates appointed by the judges of the district courts of Lubbock County, [and] the magistrates appointed by the judges of the criminal district courts of Dallas County or Tarrant County, *the masters appointed by the judges of the district courts and the county courts at law that give preference to criminal cases in Jefferson County*, the county judges, the judges of the county courts at law, judges of the county criminal courts, the judges of statutory probate courts, the justices of the peace, the mayors and recorders and the judges of the municipal courts of incorporated cities or towns.

SECTION 2. Sections 54.202(a), (b), and (d), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The judge of a court subject to this subchapter may appoint *one or more masters* [a ~~master~~] to perform the duties authorized by this subchapter.

(b) *To qualify for appointment as a master, a person must be licensed to practice law in Texas.* [A ~~master must be:~~

[~~(1) a magistrate, as that term is defined by Article 2.09, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1965, of the county; and~~

[~~(2) licensed to practice law in this state.]~~

(d) *A person appointed to serve as master is entitled to be paid an amount set by the court that may not exceed the amount paid for indigent trial representation pursuant to Article 26.05, Code of Criminal Procedure. The commissioners court shall pay the salary from funds appropriated by the commissioners court for indigent criminal representation.* [A ~~magistrate who is appointed to serve as a master is not entitled to receive additional compensation for serving as a master.~~]

SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 54, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 54.207 to read as follows:

Sec. 54.207. RESTRICTION ON PRACTICE OF LAW. A person appointed as a master under this subchapter may not practice law before the court for which the person served as master for two years after the date the master's services end.

SECTION 4. 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 February 25, 1993: Yeas 136, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 567 on May 26, 1993: Yeas 128, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 9, 1993.

Effective June 9, 1993.