

CHAPTER 354

H.B. No. 1150

AN ACT

relating to duties and powers of district clerks.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.303, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.303. DUTIES AND POWERS. (a) *The clerk of a district court has custody of and shall carefully maintain, arrange, and preserve the records relating to or lawfully deposited in the clerk's office.*

(b) The clerk of a district court~~[, in record books kept for that purpose,]~~ shall:

- (1) record the acts and proceedings of the court;
- (2) enter all judgments of the court under the direction of the judge; and
- (3) record all executions issued and the returns on the executions.

(c) ~~(b)~~ The district clerk shall keep ~~[in well-bound books]~~ an index of the parties to all suits filed in the court. The index must list the parties alphabetically using their full names and must be cross-referenced to the other parties to the suit. In addition, a reference must be made opposite each name to the *minutes* ~~[page of the minute book]~~ on which is entered the judgment in the case.

(d) ~~(c)~~ On the last day of each term of the court, the district clerk shall make a written statement of fines and jury fees received. The statement must include the name of the party from whom a fine or jury fee was received, the name of each juror who

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served during the term, the number of days served, and the amount due the juror for the services. The statement shall be recorded in the minutes of the court after it is approved and signed by the presiding judge.

(e) [(d)] The clerk of a district court may:

- (1) take the depositions of witnesses; and
- (2) perform other duties [~~that are~~] imposed on the clerk by law.

SECTION 2. 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 May 15, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate on May 29, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 11, 1987.

Effective Aug. 31, 1987, 90 days after date of adjournment.