

CHAPTER 927

H.B. No. 1299

AN ACT

relating to the minimum staffing requirements of county jails.

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

SECTION 1. Article 6871, Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 6871. **MAY EMPLOY GUARDS.** Whenever in any county it becomes necessary to employ guards for the safekeeping of prisoners and the security of jails, the Sheriff may, with the approval of the Commissioners Court, or in case of emergency, with the approval of the County Judge, employ such number of guards as may be necessary; and his account therefor, duly itemized and sworn to, shall be allowed by said Court, and paid out of the County Treasury. Provided further, that in all counties in this State, having a population of more than one hundred and forty thousand (140,000) inhabitants and less than two hundred and ninety thousand (290,000) inhabitants, according to the last preceding Federal Census, no guard, matron, jailer, or turnkey shall work more than eight (8) hours in one day. ~~[In all counties coming under the provisions of this Act, at least one man shall be on guard on each floor of said jail where male prisoners are kept, and at least one matron shall be on guard on each floor where female prisoners are kept, and that not less than two (2) employees shall be on guard in the main office of said jail at any one time.]~~ In case of emergency, those coming under the provisions of the Act shall be subject to the call of the Sheriff.

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 the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1299 on June 1, 1987, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 1299 on June 1, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 30, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and

that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 1299 on June 1, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 20, 1987.

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