

SUBJECT: Prohibiting disqualifications for service as a juror based on certain factors

COMMITTEE: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 5 ayes — Leach, Julie Johnson, Davis, Flores, Moody

4 nays — Murr, Schofield, Slawson, Vasut

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: John Woodley, Advocates for Disability Access; Rachel Hill, Equality Texas; Patricia Goforth; Stephanie Thompson)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that disqualifying a person from jury service based on beliefs or identity should be prohibited to ensure equal treatment of potential jurors.

DIGEST: CSHB 5110 would establish that a person could not be disqualified to serve as a juror based on age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, economic status, religious affiliation, or political belief.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.