

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
76R1225 DB-D

S.B. 230  
By: Ellis  
Jurisprudence  
2/18/1999  
As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, there is no uniform jury summons for all counties in the State of Texas. The Texas Supreme Court Jury Task Force studied the issue of jury summons, and recommends that all counties use the same type and style of jury summons in order to provide the same information to all prospective jurors. This bill would develop and maintain a model for a uniform written jury summons and an accompanying questionnaire.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 230 requires the office of Court Administration to develop and maintain a model for a uniform jury summons and questionnaire.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 62A, Government Code, by adding Sections 62.0131 and 62.0132, as follows:

Sec. 62.0131. FORM OF WRITTEN JURY SUMMONS. Requires the Office of Court Administration (office) to develop and maintain a model for a uniform written jury summons. Requires the model to include exemptions and restrictions governing jury service under Subchapter B. Requires the written jury summons to conform with the model established under this section. Requires the office to solicit and consider the opinions of the members of the judiciary and attorneys in the developing and maintaining the model.

Sec. 62.0132. WRITTEN JURY SUMMONS QUESTIONNAIRE. Requires the office to develop and maintain a questionnaire to accompany a written jury summons. Requires a person to provide certain biographical and demographic information that is relevant to service as a jury member. Sets forth information required on the questionnaire. Requires a person who has received a written jury summons and a written jury summons questionnaire to complete and submit the questionnaire when the person reports for jury duty. Requires the office to solicit and consider the opinion of members of the judiciary and attorneys in developing and maintaining the questionnaire.

SECTION 2. (a) Effective date: September 1, 1999.

(b) Requires the Office of Court Administration to complete the model for the summons and the questionnaire required by this Act not later than October 1, 1999, and to distribute the model and questionnaire not later than November 1, 1999.

(c) Requires a county to conform its written jury summons to the model developed under this Act not later than January 1, 2000. Requires a county to include the questionnaire developed under this Act with its written jury summons not later than January 1, 2000.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.