

SUBJECT: Appointment of statutory probate court associate judges

COMMITTEE: Judiciary — favorable without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — Hartnett, Hopson, R. Cook, Goolsby, Hughes
0 nays
4 absent — Homer, Alonzo, Gonzales, Krusee

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, May 1 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: For — Guy Herman, Statutory Probate Courts of Texas
Against — None

BACKGROUND: Government Code, ch. 54, subch. G governs statutory probate court associate judges. Under, sec. 54.603, the judge of a statutory probate court by order may appoint a person to act as associate judge for the statutory probate court.

Government Code, sec. 54.602, stipulates that subch. G does not apply to statutory probate courts in Harris County, except Probate Courts Nos. 1 and 3, and Dallas County.

DIGEST: SB 1125 would repeal Government Code, sec. 54.602 to remove the prohibition against the appointment of associate judges by statutory probate court judges in Harris County and Dallas County probate courts.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2007.