

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R2653 ATP-F

S.B. 204
By: Duncan
Jurisprudence
1/22/2001
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, sequestered jurors in a criminal case are not allowed to separate for meals or other purposes. As proposed, S.B. 204 gives a trial judge in a criminal matter the discretion to allow jurors to separate for overnight stays, meals, and other purposes.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Article 35.23, Code of Criminal Procedure, by authorizing the court in a criminal case to permit jurors to separate for meals or other proper purposes if the court has ordered the jury not to separate until a verdict has been rendered or the jury finally discharged.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2001.
Makes application of this Act prospective.