

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R2236 YDB-D

S.B. 395
By: Duncan
Jurisprudence
2/1/2001
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Recently, a subcommittee of the Texas Judicial Council examined the issue of increased compensation for jury service in the hopes of making recommendations to the legislature to increase juror participation. As proposed, S.B. 395 requires the Texas Judicial Council to collect further information from all the counties, including information on reimbursement of expenses for jurors and other incentives for jury service; and demographic and statistical information relating to the county's jurors and prospective jurors. It also requires the Texas Judicial Council to examine the information and report its findings and make recommendations to the legislature.

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 Chapter 71C, Government Code, to add Section 71.037, as follows:

Sec. 71.037. JURY SERVICE STUDY. (a) Requires the Texas Judicial Council (council) to conduct a study to examine jury service in each county of this state.

(b) Requires the council to collect and examine certain information in conducting the study.

(c) Requires the council to seek the assistance of each county and the National Center for State Courts.

(d) Requires the council to file a copy of the study, a summary of the results, and the council's recommendations with the legislature not later than January 1, 2003.

(e) Provides that this section expires March 1, 2003.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.