

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
83R2485 TJS-D

S.B. 392  
By: West  
State Affairs  
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As Filed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Under Chapter 71 (Texas Judicial Council), Government Code, the Texas Judicial Council is the policymaking body for the Texas judicial branch and is charged with expediting judicial business transactions. The 82nd Legislature created Section 402.010 (Legal Challenges to Constitutionality of State Statutes) of the Government Code concerning legal actions challenging the constitutionality of a Texas statute. The statute requires "the court," generally interpreted to mean "the clerk of the court," to serve notice of the constitutional question on the attorney general and serve a copy of the petition, motion, or other pleading raising the constitutional challenge on the attorney general. This places an additional obligation on clerks to determine whether the complaint rises to a constitutional challenge.

S.B. 392 removes the obligation on clerks to serve the attorney general and places that obligation on the party raising the constitutional question.

As proposed, S.B. 392 amends current law relating to notice to the attorney general of challenges to the constitutionality of Texas statutes.

### **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 Sections 402.010(a) and (c), Government Code, as follows:

(a) Requires the party, rather than the court, in an action in which a party to the litigation files a petition, motion, or other pleading challenging the constitutionality of a statute of this state, to serve notice of the constitutional question and a copy of the petition, motion, or other pleading that raises the challenge on the attorney general either by certified or registered mail or electronically to an e-mail address designated by the attorney general for the purposes of this section if the attorney general is not a party to or counsel involved in the litigation.

(c) Makes a conforming change.

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2013.