

AN ACT

relating to the qualifications to serve as an associate judge in certain family law proceedings.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 201.002, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 201.002. QUALIFICATIONS. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), to [To] be eligible for appointment as an associate judge, a person must meet the requirements and qualifications to serve as a judge of the court or courts for which the associate judge is appointed.

(b) To be eligible for appointment as an associate judge under Subchapter B or C, a person must meet the requirements and qualifications established under those subchapters.

SECTION 2. Section 201.102, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 201.102. APPLICATION OF LAW GOVERNING ASSOCIATE JUDGES. ~~[(a)]~~ Subchapter A applies to an associate judge appointed under this subchapter, except that, to the extent of any conflict between this subchapter and Subchapter A, this subchapter prevails.

~~[(b) An associate judge appointed under this subchapter may reside anywhere within the administrative judicial region in which the court to which the associate judge is appointed is located. An~~

1 ~~associate judge appointed to serve in two or more administrative~~  
2 ~~judicial regions may reside anywhere within the regions.]~~

3 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 201, Family Code, is  
4 amended by adding Section 201.1021 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 201.1021. QUALIFICATIONS. (a) To be eligible for  
6 appointment under this subchapter, a person must be:

7 (1) a citizen of the United States and have resided in  
8 the administrative judicial region, or a county adjacent to the  
9 region, in which the court to which the person is appointed is  
10 located for the two years preceding the date of appointment; and

11 (2) licensed to practice law in this state and have  
12 been a practicing lawyer or a judge of a court in this state for the  
13 four years preceding the date of appointment.

14 (b) An associate judge appointed under this subchapter  
15 shall during the term of appointment reside in the administrative  
16 judicial region, or a county adjacent to the region, in which the  
17 court to which the associate judge is appointed is located. An  
18 associate judge appointed to serve in two or more administrative  
19 judicial regions may reside anywhere in the regions.

20 SECTION 4. Section 201.202, Family Code, is amended to read  
21 as follows:

22 Sec. 201.202. APPLICATION OF LAW GOVERNING ASSOCIATE  
23 JUDGES. ~~[(a)]~~ Except as provided by this subchapter, Subchapter A  
24 applies to an associate judge appointed under this subchapter.

25 ~~[(b) An associate judge may reside anywhere in the~~  
26 ~~administrative judicial region in which the court to which the~~  
27 ~~associate judge is appointed is located. An associate judge~~

1 ~~appointed to serve in two or more administrative judicial regions~~  
2 ~~may reside anywhere in the regions.]~~

3 SECTION 5. Subchapter C, Chapter 201, Family Code, is  
4 amended by adding Section 201.2021 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 201.2021. QUALIFICATIONS. (a) To be eligible for  
6 appointment under this subchapter, a person must be:

7 (1) a citizen of the United States and have resided in  
8 the administrative judicial region, or a county adjacent to the  
9 region, in which the court to which the person is appointed is  
10 located for the two years preceding the date of appointment; and

11 (2) licensed to practice law in this state and have  
12 been a practicing lawyer or a judge of a court in this state for the  
13 four years preceding the date of appointment.

14 (b) An associate judge appointed under this subchapter  
15 shall during the term of appointment reside in the administrative  
16 judicial region, or a county adjacent to the region, in which the  
17 court to which the associate judge is appointed is located. An  
18 associate judge appointed to serve in two or more administrative  
19 judicial regions may reside anywhere in the regions.

20 SECTION 6. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
21 the appointment of an associate judge under Subchapters B and C,  
22 Chapter 201, Family Code, on or after the effective date of this  
23 Act. The appointment of an associate judge before that date is  
24 governed by the law in effect on the date the appointment was made,  
25 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

26 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

S.B. No. 271

David Newkum  
President of the Senate

Jim Caddick  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 271 passed the Senate on March 14, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Datsy Snow  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 271 passed the House on April 27, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 133, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Robert Hamey  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

8 MAY '07

Date

RICK PERDY  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
3:16 PM O'CLOCK

MAY 08 2007

Roger Williams