
DIGEST

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HB 4 Reengrossed

2024 Second Extraordinary Session

Emerson

Abstract: Provides relative to post conviction relief procedures.

Present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.4) generally provides for the procedures governing repetitive applications for post conviction relief.

Present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.4(F)) provides that if the court considers dismissing an application for failure of the petitioner to raise the claim in the proceedings leading to conviction, failure to urge the claim on appeal, or failure to include the claim in a prior application, the court shall order the petitioner to state reasons for his failure. Further provides that if the court finds that the failure was excusable, it shall consider the merits of the claim.

Proposed law removes this provision of present law and provides that any attempt or request by a petitioner to supplement or amend the application shall be subject to all of the limitations and restrictions set forth in proposed law.

Proposed law further provides that in addition to serving the district attorney for the jurisdiction where the underlying conviction was obtained, any application filed after the first application for post conviction relief shall be served on the district attorney and the attorney general at least 60 days in advance of the hearing on the application. Further provides that both the district attorney and the attorney general shall have a right to suspensively appeal any order granting relief.

Present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.4(G)) provides that notwithstanding any provision of present law (C.Cr.P.) to the contrary, the state may affirmatively waive any procedural objection pursuant to present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.4). Further provides that such waiver shall be express and in writing and filed by the state into the district court record.

Proposed law removes this provision of present law and provides that all of the limitations set forth in present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.4) shall be jurisdictional and shall not be waived or excused by the court or the district attorney.

Present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.8) generally provides for time limitations for post conviction relief applications and for exceptions to these time limitations.

Present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.8(A)) provides for circumstances where an application for post conviction relief shall be considered even if it is filed more than two years after the judgment of conviction and sentence has become final under the provisions of present law (C.Cr.P. Arts. 914 or

922).

Present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.8(A)(1)) further provides that if the petitioner pled guilty or nolo contendere to the offense of conviction and is seeking relief pursuant to present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 926.2) and five years or more have elapsed since the petitioner pled guilty or nolo contendere to the offense of conviction, he shall not be eligible for the exception provided by present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.8(A)(1)).

Proposed law removes the condition that five years or more need to have elapsed since the petitioner pled guilty or nolo contendere to the offense of conviction and provides that a petitioner shall not be eligible for the exception provided in present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.8(A)(1)) if the petitioner pled guilty or nolo contendere to the offense of conviction.

Present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.8(D)) provides that notwithstanding any provision of present law (C.Cr.P.) to the contrary, the state may affirmatively waive any procedural objection pursuant to present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.8(A)). Further provides that such waiver shall be express and in writing and filed by the state into the district court record.

Proposed law removes this provision of present law and provides that any attempt or request by a petitioner to supplement or amend the application shall be subject to all of the limitations and restrictions as set forth in present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.8).

Proposed law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.8(E)) provides that all of the limitations set forth in present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 930.8) shall be jurisdictional and shall not be waived or excused by the court or the district attorney.

(Amends C.Cr.P. Arts. 930.4(F) and (G) and 930.8(A)(1) and (D); Adds C.Cr.P. Art. 930.8(E))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Provide that proposed law limitations are jurisdictional.
2. Clarify that in addition to serving the district attorney for the jurisdiction where the underlying conviction was obtained, any application filed after the first application for post conviction relief shall be served on the district attorney and the attorney general at least 60 days in advance of the hearing on the application.
3. Provide that both the district attorney and the attorney general shall have a right to suspensively appeal any order granting relief.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Restore present law relative to the submission of an application for post conviction relief within two years of the discovery of new facts that were not previously known to the petitioner or prior attorneys.