DIGEST

HB 969 Engrossed   2024 Regular Session   Green

Abstract: Permits court proceedings to be conducted via remote technology.

<u>Present law</u> provides that a hearing on any motion or exception may be conducted by any audio-visual means at the discretion of the court. Provides further that if witness testimony is necessary, a party may request that the hearing be conducted in person.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that in any civil proceeding that does not require witness testimony or the introduction of evidence, a party may provide written notice to the court at least 10 days prior to the scheduled hearing date that he will appear remotely. Provides further that provided the court has the requisite technology, the court shall allow the party to appear by any audio-visual means, unless the court provides written reasons declining the remote appearance for good cause.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that when allowing a remote appearance as provided by <u>proposed law</u>, the court shall ensure the technology enables all parties, whether appearing remotely or in person, to fully participate. Provides further that the court shall require that a remote appearance by a party abide by any necessary privacy and security requirements appropriate for the conference, hearing, proceeding, or trial as established by the court.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that the court shall have a process for a party, court reporter, or other court personnel to alert of any technology or audibility issues arising during a remote proceeding.

<u>Present law</u> provides that a judge trial may be conducted by any audio-visual means with the consent of all parties and permission of the court.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u>.

(Amends C.C.P. Art. 195.1)