
Austin Municipal Court



Pending Legislation



Judicial Committee Meeting
April 12, 2011



Legislative Briefing

- In 2009, 139 bill were enacted that directly or indirectly affected municipal courts
- In 2007, 186 bills were enacted
- In 2005, 136 bills



Legislative Briefing

- More than 250 bills have been filed in 2011 affecting municipal courts and their operations
- Communicating as needed with the city's Government Relations Office
- Communicating as needed with the Law Department to ensure correct interpretation and applicability of bills
- Texas Municipal Courts Education Center (TMCEC) will have a preliminary review of bills in June in San Antonio and an in-depth review in August in Austin



Legislative Briefing

- Fines, Court Costs, Fees Changes
 - Court Building Security fee
 - Technology fee
 - Juvenile Case Manager fee uses
 - Warrant fee
 - Child Safety fee
 - State traffic fine
 - Other new costs/fees
 - Revised maximum fines



Legislative Briefing

- Administrative Issues
 - “Automatic” Expunctions
 - Pre-trials Hearings Deadlines
 - Judicial / Clerk Training
 - Appeal procedures
 - Docket posting



Legislative Briefing

- Magistrate Duties
 - Surety Companies
 - Protective Orders
 - Dating violence
 - EPO to include pets
 - Electronic warrants
 - Search warrant changes



Legislative Briefing

- Traffic and Transportation Code Changes
 - Wireless devices while driving
 - Driver Responsibility Program changes
 - Camera at Red Light Program
 - Operating vehicles w/o driver licenses
 - Temporarily lowered speed limits



Legislative Briefing

- Legislation Affecting Juvenile Justice
 - ❑ Deferred Dispositions
 - ❑ Juvenile Case Manager Requirements
 - ❑ Non-disclosure penalties
 - ❑ Tutoring as part of deferred disposition (probation)
 - ❑ Sharing of juvenile information
 - ❑ Community service hours
 - ❑ Juveniles are under age 17 except possibly tobacco which would be changed to under age 18



Legislative Briefing

- Class C Misdemeanors - New or changing
 - Sexting
 - Smoking in workplace
 - Metal recycling
 - Theft
 - Radar interference devices

*Note: New class 'c' misdemeanor violations require Court to prepare new violation codes, set new fines, draft new probable cause affidavits and complaints, and change reports to the Department of Public Safety and/or the Office of Court Administration



Legislative Briefing

- The End