

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 1492
By: Hochberg (Ellis)
Jurisprudence
4-10-97
Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, there are no guidelines in Texas law regarding the wearing of religious apparel by witnesses and others during court proceedings. This has led to one case of a judge requiring a witness to remove religious apparel without any specific finding that the apparel would interfere with the fairness of the proceeding. This bill will prohibit a judge from requesting that a person remove religious apparel unless certain criteria are met.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 1492 prohibits a judge from requesting that a person remove religious apparel unless certain criteria are met.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 21.001, Government Code, by adding Subsection (c), to prohibit a judge, during a court proceeding, from requesting that a person remove an item of religious apparel unless certain criteria are met.

SECTION 2. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.