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THE STATE OF TEXAS
THIRD ADMINISTRATIVE JUDICIAL REGION OF TEXAS
ORDER EXTENDING TERMS OF COURTS

Whereas, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Abbott has declared a state of disaster in all 254 counties in the State of Texas; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas (“the Courts”) have issued emergency orders related to the administration of justice during the state of disaster, including ordering all Texas courts to modify or suspend all deadlines and procedures when appropriate to avoid risk to staff, parties, attorneys, jurors and the public, and prohibiting courts from conducting non-essential proceedings in person contrary to local, state, or national directives, whichever is most restrictive, regarding maximum group size; and

Whereas, impaneling a grand jury would result in the gathering of large groups of individuals inconsistent with local directives regarding appropriate measures to avoid the transmission of COVID-19 and would risk the health of those called to grand jury duty and court staff;

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic, and certain emergency orders issued in relation to that pandemic, have, in effect, prevented the 66th District Court from holding any jury trials during a substantial portion of the current judicial district term of court and will likely continue to do so in the foreseeable future; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic, a disaster within the meaning of Texas Government Code section 418.004, precludes the 66th District Court from holding its current judicial district term commenced in January of 2020.

Now therefore, pursuant to Section 24.0125 of the Texas Government Code and with the approval of the judge of the 66th District Court, it is ordered that the current term of the 66th District Court of HILL County is hereby extended until October 31, 2020.

SIGNED June 29, 2020.


Billy Ray Stubblefield
Presiding Judge, Third Administrative Judicial Region