

By: Anderson

H.B. No. 4632

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the creation of an additional county court at law in
3 McLennan County and the operation of the county courts at law in
4 that county.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 25.1571, Government Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 25.1571. MCLENNAN COUNTY. McLennan County has the
9 following statutory county courts:

10 (1) County Court at Law of McLennan County; ~~and~~

11 (2) County Court at Law No. 2 of McLennan County; and

12 (3) County Court at Law No. 3 of McLennan County.

13 SECTION 2. Section 25.1572, Government Code, is amended by
14 amending Subsections (a), (d), and (i) and adding Subsection (e) to
15 read as follows:

16 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section
17 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in McLennan County has:

18 (1) concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in
19 state jail, third degree, and second degree felony cases on
20 assignment from a district judge presiding in McLennan County and
21 acceptance of the assignment by the judge of the county court at law
22 ~~and jurisdiction~~ to:

23 (A) conduct arraignments;

24 (B) ~~7~~ conduct pretrial hearings;

1 (C) [~~7~~] accept guilty pleas and conduct
2 sentencing;

3 (D) conduct jury trials and nonjury trials;

4 (E) [~~7~~—~~and~~] conduct probation revocation
5 hearings; and

6 (F) conduct post-trial proceedings; and

7 (2) jurisdiction in:

8 (A) Class A and Class B misdemeanor cases;

9 (B) probate proceedings;

10 (C) disputes ancillary to probate, eminent
11 domain, condemnation, or landlord and tenant matters relating to
12 the adjudication and determination of land titles and trusts,
13 whether testamentary, inter vivos, constructive, resulting, or any
14 other class or type of trust, regardless of the amount in
15 controversy or the remedy sought; and

16 (D) appeals from the justice and municipal courts
17 [in felony cases].

18 (d) A judge of a county court at law shall be paid a total
19 [an] annual salary set by the commissioners court in an amount that
20 is not less than \$1,000 less than the annual salary received by a
21 district judge with equivalent years of service as a judge, as
22 provided under Section 25.0005, to be paid out of the county
23 treasury by the commissioners court [of not more than \$20,000. Each
24 judge receives the same amount as salary. The salary shall be paid
25 out of the county treasury by the commissioners court].

26 (e) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at
27 law in matters of concurrent jurisdiction with the district court,

1 and the county clerk serves as clerk of a county court at law in all
2 other matters. Each clerk shall establish a separate docket for a
3 county court at law.

4 (i) The official court reporter of a county court at law is
5 entitled to receive the same compensation and to be paid in the same
6 manner as the court reporters of the district courts in McLennan
7 County.

8 SECTION 3. The County Court at Law No. 3 of McLennan County
9 is created on the effective date of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.