

By: VanDeaver

H.B. No. 1469

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the County Court at Law of Bowie County.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25.0212, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (f) and adding Subsections (i) and (j) to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and other law and except as limited by Subsection (b), a county court at law in Bowie County has, concurrent with the district court, the jurisdiction provided by the constitution and by general law for district courts, including concurrent jurisdiction in:

(1) specialty court programs;

(2) misdemeanor cases;

(3) family law cases and proceedings, including juvenile matters; and

(4) probate and guardianship matters.

(b) A county court at law does not have jurisdiction of:

(1) felony criminal matters;

(2) suits on behalf of the state to recover penalties or escheated property;

(3) misdemeanors involving official misconduct;

(4) contested elections; or

(5) civil cases in which the matter in controversy

1 exceeds the amount provided in Section 25.0003 [~~\$200,000~~],
2 excluding interest, statutory or punitive damages and penalties,
3 and attorney's fees and costs, as alleged on the face of the
4 petition.

5 (f) The [~~commissioners court may authorize the judge of a~~
6 ~~county court at law to set the~~] official court reporter of a county
7 court at law is entitled to compensation, fees, and allowances in
8 amounts equal to the amounts paid to the official court reporters
9 serving the district courts in Bowie County, including an annual
10 salary set by the judge of the county court at law and approved by
11 the commissioners court [~~reporter's salary~~].

12 (i) The jury in all civil or criminal matters is composed of
13 12 members, except in misdemeanor criminal cases and any other case
14 in which the court has concurrent jurisdiction with county courts
15 under Section 25.0003(a), the jury is composed of six members.

16 (j) In matters of concurrent jurisdiction, a judge of a
17 county court at law and a judge of a district court with
18 jurisdiction in Bowie County may transfer cases between the courts
19 in the same manner that judges of district courts may transfer cases
20 under Section 24.003.

21 SECTION 2. Section 25.0212(d), Government Code, is
22 repealed.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.