

By: Anchía

H.B. No. 5131

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the office of medical examiner in certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1, Article 49.25, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1. OFFICE REQUIRED IN CERTAIN COUNTIES AND AUTHORIZED IN OTHER COUNTIES. Subject to the provisions of this article, the commissioners court of any county with ~~[having]~~ a population of more than one ~~[2.5]~~ million shall establish and maintain the office of medical examiner, and the commissioners court of any county with a population of less than one million may establish and provide for the maintenance of the office of medical examiner. Population shall be according to the last preceding federal census.

SECTION 2. Section 1-a(a), Article 49.25, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The commissioners courts of two or more counties, regardless of population size, may enter into an agreement to create a medical examiners district and to jointly operate and maintain the office of medical examiner of the district. The district must include the entire area of all counties involved. The counties within the district must, when taken together, form a continuous area.

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