

Amend CSHB 7 by inserting the following new article, appropriately numbered, and renumbering the subsequent articles accordingly:

ARTICLE _____. CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS IN
CERTAIN COUNTIES

SECTION _____. Subchapter A, Chapter 25, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 25.0020 to read as follows:

Sec. 25.0020. CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a county with a population of three million or more.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 25.1032 or any other law, a county civil court at law has jurisdiction over eminent domain proceedings, both statutory and inverse, in which the amount in controversy does not exceed \$200,000.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 25.1032 or any other law, a district court has jurisdiction over eminent domain proceedings, both statutory and inverse, in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$200,000.

(d) Notwithstanding Section 21.013, Property Code, a party initiating a condemnation proceeding shall file a petition with a court that has jurisdiction to hear the proceeding under Subsections (b) and (c).

(e) A condemnation proceeding shall be assigned randomly to a court with jurisdiction to hear the proceeding.

(f) For purposes of this section, "the amount in controversy" is:

(1) the amount of the last offer made by the condemning authority to the owner of the property before filing a petition under Section 21.012, Property Code; or

(2) the amount of damages claimed by a party filing an inverse condemnation case.