

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 1729
By: Merritt
Judicial Affairs
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The general law for municipal courts of record in Texas is that municipalities must provide a court reporter to preserve the record in cases tried before a municipal court of record. This general rule, however, does provide that a good quality electronic recording device may be used instead of a court reporter in certain circumstances.

Currently, the statutory section specific to the municipal court of record for the City of Longview does not allow the use of an electronic recording device. This results in unnecessary expense to the city. H.B. 1729 allows the City of Longview to follow the general rule permitting the use of electronic recording devices in its municipal court of record.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

H.B. 1729 amends the Government Code to permit the municipal court of record for City of Longview to record its proceedings by a good quality electronic recording device under certain conditions.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon passage, or, if the Act does not receive the necessary vote, the Act takes effect on September 1, 2003.