

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 3595
By: Chavez
Judicial Affairs
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently the County Criminal Courts in El Paso County are limited by statute as to their jurisdiction and ability to transfer or receive cases. The judges of these courts are limited by the same statute in their ability to sit in other courts and to have other judges sit in theirs. Removing these restrictions will provide the El Paso County Court system greater flexibility in dealing with its case load.

H.B. 3595 deletes provisions in current law which currently prevent the judges of the county criminal courts at law in El Paso County from transferring cases between courts and from exchanging benches. The bill also removes the provision which limits the El Paso Criminal County Courts at Law to criminal jurisdiction, thereby facilitating the more efficient administration of justice.

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. 3595 amends the Government Code to remove provisions which currently prevent the judges of the county criminal courts at law in El Paso County from transferring cases between courts and from exchanging benches. The bill also removes the provision which limits the El Paso Criminal County Courts at Law to criminal jurisdiction.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003.