

By: Hope, et al.

H.B. No. 538

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the funding of alternative dispute resolution systems.

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

SECTION 1. Section 152.004(a), Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To establish and maintain an alternative dispute resolution system, the commissioners court may set a court cost in an amount not to exceed \$15 [~~\$10~~] to be taxed, collected, and paid as other court costs in each civil case filed in a county or district court in the county, including a civil case relating to probate matters but not including:

(1) a suit for delinquent taxes;

(2) a condemnation proceeding under Chapter 21, Property Code; or

(3) a proceeding under Subtitle C, Title 7, Health and Safety Code.

SECTION 2. Section 152.005, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 152.005. ADDITIONAL FEE FOR JUSTICE COURTS [~~CERTAIN COUNTIES~~]. (a) To establish and maintain an alternative dispute resolution system, the commissioners court [~~of a county with a population of 2.5 million or more~~] may, in addition to the court cost authorized under Section 152.004, set a court cost in an amount not to exceed \$5 [~~\$3~~] for civil cases filed in a justice court

1 located in the county, but not including:

2 (1) a suit for delinquent taxes; or

3 (2) an eviction proceeding, including a forcible
4 detainer, a forcible entry and detainer, or a writ of re-entry.

5 (b) A clerk of the court shall collect and pay the court cost
6 in the manner prescribed by Section 152.004(c).

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and
8 applies only to a civil case filed on or after that date.