

By: Flores

H.B. No. 1509

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the jurisdiction of and filing fees in certain courts.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 26.042(a) and (d), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A county court has concurrent jurisdiction with the justice courts in civil cases in which the matter in controversy exceeds \$200 in value but does not exceed \$10,000 [~~\$5,000~~], exclusive of interest.

(d) A county court has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in civil cases in which the matter in controversy exceeds \$500 but does not exceed \$10,000 [~~\$5,000~~], exclusive of interest.

SECTION 2. Section 27.031(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the jurisdiction and powers provided by the constitution and other law, the justice court has original jurisdiction of:

(1) civil matters in which exclusive jurisdiction is not in the district or county court and in which the amount in controversy is not more than \$10,000 [~~\$5,000~~], exclusive of interest, attorney's fees, and costs;

(2) cases of forcible entry and detainer; and

(3) foreclosure of mortgages and enforcement of liens

1 on personal property in cases in which the amount in controversy is
2 otherwise within the justice court's jurisdiction.

3 SECTION 3. Section 118.121, Local Government Code, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Sec. 118.121. FEE SCHEDULE. A justice of the peace shall
6 collect the following fees for services rendered to any person:

- 7 (1) Services rendered before judgment (Sec. 118.122):
 - 8 (A) Justice court, if the amount in controversy
9 is \$5,000 or less \$15.00
 - 10 (B) Small claims court \$10.00
 - 11 (C) Justice court, if the amount in controversy
12 is more than \$5,000 \$50.00
- 13 (2) Services rendered after judgment (Sec. 118.123):
 - 14 (A) Transcript \$10.00
 - 15 (B) Abstract of judgment \$5.00
 - 16 (C) Execution, order of sale, writ of
17 restitution, or other writ or
18 process \$5.00 per page
19 Certified copy of court papers . . \$2.00 for
20 first page
21 \$0.25 for each additional page
22 Issuing other document (no return
23 required) \$1.00 for first page
24 \$0.25 for each additional page

25 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only
26 to actions filed on or after the effective date of this Act. An
27 action filed before the effective date of this Act is covered by the

1 law in effect when the action was filed, and the former law is
2 continued in effect for that purpose.

3 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.