

By: Lewis, Hughes

H.B. No. 1716

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to conflicts of interest of certain local public officials engaged in the practice of law.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 171, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 171.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 171.010. PRACTICE OF LAW. (a) For purposes of this chapter, a county judge or county commissioner engaged in the private practice of law has a substantial interest in a business entity if the official has entered a court appearance or signed court pleadings in a matter relating to that business entity.

(b) A county judge or county commissioner that has a substantial interest in a business entity as described by Subsection (a) must comply with this chapter.

(c) A judge of a constitutional county court may not enter a court appearance or sign court pleadings as an attorney in any matter before:

(1) the court over which the judge presides; or

(2) any court in this state over which the judge's court exercises appellate jurisdiction.

(d) Upon compliance with this chapter, a county judge or commissioner may practice law in the courts located in the county where the county judge or commissioner serves.

SECTION 2. Section 171.010(c), Local Government Code, as

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1 added by this Act, applies only to the entrance of an appearance or
2 pleading signed on or after September 1, 2003.

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