

By: Lewis

H.B. No. 2931

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the administration and finances of counties and certain  
3 other entities.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 41.008, Government Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 41.008. RECORD [~~REGISTER~~]. (a) Each district or  
8 county attorney shall keep a record of [~~register of all his official~~  
9 ~~acts and reports,~~] all actions or demands prosecuted or defended by  
10 the person [~~him~~] as district or county attorney, and all  
11 proceedings held in relation to the attorney's [~~his~~] official acts.

12 (b) The record required by Subsection (a) may be in a paper  
13 format, an electronic format, or both. A computer record of  
14 actions, demands, and proceedings satisfies the requirements of  
15 Subsection (a). [~~A district or county attorney shall keep the~~  
16 ~~register in proper books obtained by him for that purpose at his own~~  
17 ~~expense.~~]

18 (c) The record [~~register~~] shall be available at all times  
19 for inspection by any person appointed to examine it by the governor  
20 or by the commissioners court of a county.

21 (d) Each district and county attorney shall deliver any  
22 portion of the record under the attorney's control to the attorney's  
23 [~~the books that comprise the register to his~~] successor in office.

24 SECTION 2. Section 791.003(4), Government Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 (4) "Local government" means a:

3 (A) county, municipality, special district, or  
4 other political subdivision of this state or another state; ~~[or]~~

5 (B) local government corporation created under  
6 Subchapter D, Chapter 431, Transportation Code;

7 (C) political subdivision corporation created  
8 under Chapter 304, Local Government Code; or

9 (D) combination of two or more ~~[of those]~~  
10 entities described by Paragraph (A), (B), or (C).

11 SECTION 3. Section 791.013, Government Code, is amended by  
12 amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (d) to read  
13 as follows:

14 (a) To supervise the performance of an interlocal contract,  
15 the [The] parties to the [an interlocal] contract may:

16 (1) create an administrative agency;

17 (2) ~~[or]~~ designate an existing local government; or

18 (3) contract with an organization that qualifies for  
19 exemption from federal income tax under Section 501(c), Internal  
20 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, that provides services on behalf  
21 of political subdivisions or combinations of political  
22 subdivisions and derives more than 50 percent of its gross revenues  
23 from grants, funding, or other income from political subdivisions  
24 or combinations of subdivisions ~~[to supervise the performance of~~  
25 ~~the contract]~~.

26 (b) The agency, ~~[or]~~ designated local government, or  
27 organization described by Subsection (a)(3) may employ personnel,

1 perform administrative activities, and provide administrative  
2 services necessary to perform the interlocal contract.

3 (d) An administrative agency created under this section may  
4 acquire, apply for, register, secure, hold, protect, and renew  
5 under the laws of this state, another state, the United States, or  
6 any other nation:

7 (1) a patent for the invention or discovery of:

8 (A) any new and useful process, machine,  
9 manufacture, composition of matter, art, or method;

10 (B) any new use of a known process, machine,  
11 manufacture, composition of matter, art, or method; or

12 (C) any new and useful improvement on a known  
13 process, machine, manufacture, composition of matter, art, or  
14 method;

15 (2) a copyright of an original work of authorship  
16 fixed in any tangible medium of expression, now known or later  
17 developed, from which the work may be perceived, reproduced, or  
18 otherwise communicated, either directly or with the aid of a  
19 machine or device;

20 (3) a trademark, service mark, collective mark, or  
21 certification mark for a word, name, symbol, device, or slogan that  
22 the agency uses to identify and distinguish the agency's goods and  
23 services from other goods and services; and

24 (4) other evidence of protection of exclusivity issued  
25 for intellectual property.

26 SECTION 4. Sections 81.003(b) and (c), Local Government  
27 Code, are amended to read as follows:

1 (b) The court shall require the clerk to record [~~in suitable~~  
2 ~~books~~] the proceedings of each term of the court. This record may  
3 be in a paper or electronic format. After each term [~~the county~~  
4 ~~judge or the presiding member of the court shall read and sign and~~]  
5 the clerk shall attest to the accuracy of this record.

6 (c) The clerk shall record the court's authorized  
7 proceedings between terms. This record may be in a paper or  
8 electronic format. The clerk shall attest to the accuracy of the  
9 [~~On the first day of the first term after these proceedings, the~~  
10 ~~county judge or the presiding member of the court shall read and~~  
11 ~~sign this~~] record.

12 SECTION 5. Subchapter A, Chapter 111, Local Government  
13 Code, is amended by adding Section 111.014 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 111.014. RESERVE ITEM. Notwithstanding any other  
15 provision of this subchapter, a county may establish in the budget a  
16 reserve or contingency item. The item must be included in the  
17 itemized budget under Section 111.004(a) in the same manner as a  
18 project for which an appropriation is established in the budget.

19 SECTION 6. Subchapter B, Chapter 111, Local Government  
20 Code, is amended by adding Section 111.045 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 111.045. RESERVE ITEM. Notwithstanding any other  
22 provision of this subchapter, a county may establish in the budget a  
23 reserve or contingency item. The item must be included in the  
24 itemized budget under Section 111.034(a) in the same manner as a  
25 project for which an appropriation is established in the budget.

26 SECTION 7. Subchapter C, Chapter 111, Local Government  
27 Code, is amended by adding Section 111.075 to read as follows:

1       Sec. 111.075. RESERVE ITEM. Notwithstanding any other  
2 provision of this subchapter, a county may establish in the budget a  
3 reserve or contingency item. The item must be included in the  
4 itemized budget under Section 111.063(a) in the same manner as a  
5 project for which an appropriation is established in the budget.

6       SECTION 8. Chapter 180, Local Government Code, is amended  
7 by adding Section 180.005 to read as follows:

8       Sec. 180.005. APPOINTMENTS TO LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES. (a)  
9 In this section, "local government" means a county, municipality,  
10 or other political subdivision of this state.

11       (b) An appointment to the governing body of a local  
12 government may be made with the intent to ensure that the governing  
13 body is representative of the constituency served by the governing  
14 body.

15       (c) A local government that chooses to implement Subsection  
16 (b) shall adopt procedures for the implementation.

17       SECTION 9. Section 270.007(i), Local Government Code, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19       (i) A county may not develop a computer application or  
20 software system for the sole purpose of selling, licensing, or  
21 marketing the software application or software system.

22       SECTION 10. Chapter 270, Local Government Code, is amended  
23 by adding Section 270.009 to read as follows:

24       Sec. 270.009. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF COUNTY. A county  
25 may acquire, apply for, register, secure, hold, protect, and renew  
26 under the laws of this state, another state, the United States, or  
27 any other nation:

1           (1) a patent for the invention or discovery of:

2                   (A) any new and useful process, machine,  
3 manufacture, composition of matter, art, or method;

4                   (B) any new use of a known process, machine,  
5 manufacture, composition of matter, art, or method; or

6                   (C) any new and useful improvement on a known  
7 process, machine, manufacture, composition of matter, art, or  
8 method;

9           (2) a copyright of an original work of authorship  
10 fixed in any tangible medium of expression, now known or later  
11 developed, from which the work may be perceived, reproduced, or  
12 otherwise communicated, either directly or with the aid of a  
13 machine or device;

14           (3) a trademark, service mark, collective mark, or  
15 certification mark for a word, name, symbol, device, or slogan that  
16 the county uses to identify and distinguish the county's goods and  
17 services from other goods and services; and

18           (4) other evidence of protection of exclusivity issued  
19 for intellectual property.

20           SECTION 11. Sections 114.042, 114.045, 151.902, and  
21 270.007(g), Local Government Code, are repealed.

22           SECTION 12. Section 180.005, Local Government Code, as  
23 added by this Act, applies only to an appointment made on or after  
24 the effective date of this Act.

25           SECTION 13. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.