

By: Gallego

H.B. No. 3273

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the use of funds to provide trial courts with technical
3 support equipment.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 72.028, Government Code, is amended by
6 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

7 (d) Upon recommendation of the Judicial Committee on
8 Information Technology and approval by the Chief Justice, the
9 office may use appropriated funds to grant funding to or purchase
10 equipment to be provided to trial courts to provide technological
11 support in order to improve the efficient administration of
12 justice.

13 SECTION 2. Section 77.031, Government Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 The committee shall:

16 (1) develop programs to implement the recommendations
17 of the Information Technology Task Force of the Texas Commission on
18 Judicial Efficiency;

19 (2) develop minimum standards for voice storage and
20 retrieval services, including voice messaging and electronic mail
21 services, local area networks, Internet access, electronic data
22 interchange, data dictionaries, and other technological needs of
23 the judicial system;

24 (3) develop a coordinated statewide computer and

1 communication network that is capable of linking all courts in this
2 state;

3 (4) encourage efficiency and planning coordination by
4 researching the possible uses of existing computer and
5 communication networks developed by other state agencies;

6 (5) develop minimum standards for an electronically
7 based document system to provide for the flow of information within
8 the judicial system in electronic form and recommend rules relating
9 to the electronic filing of documents with courts;

10 (6) develop security guidelines for controlling
11 access to and protecting the integrity and confidentiality of
12 information available in electronic form;

13 (7) develop a state judicial system web page for use on
14 the Internet accessible to the public for a reasonable access fee
15 set by the supreme court after consultation with the committee;

16 (8) develop minimum standards for an internal computer
17 and communication network available only to court staff;

18 (9) recommend pilot programs relating to the testing
19 and demonstration of new technologies as applied to the judicial
20 system;

21 (10) recommend programs to provide training and
22 technical assistance to users of the coordinated statewide computer
23 and communication network;

24 (11) develop funding priorities regarding the various
25 technological needs of the judicial system; and

26 (12) recommend distributions of funds or equipment to
27 courts from the judicial technology account in the judicial fund or

1 from general appropriations to the Office of Court Administration
2 in order to improve the efficient administration of justice.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.