

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 564  
By: Gattis  
Judiciary  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Williamson County continues to experience significant population growth. According to official statistics from United States Census Bureau the population increased from 139,551 persons in 1990 to 249,967 by 2000. The 2003 population estimate stands at 303,587 persons, which represent a 21.5% increase since the 2000 census numbers. While the distinction of being one of the fastest growing counties in the state and the nation provides many opportunities there are also challenges as well. One of those areas experiencing a real impact is the administration of justice, namely the courts system.

Williamson County currently has three county courts at law with the last county court being created in 1999. There is a demonstrated need for another county court at law. Specifically, the Commissioners Court passed a resolution seeking the creation of such a court by the Texas Legislature. House Bill 564 would create a fourth county court at law in Williamson County. The creation of this additional statutory court will help relieve the crowded dockets of the other courts and will help ensure the timely administration of justice.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1: Section 25.2481, Government Code, is amended to create County Court at Law No. 4 of Williamson County.

SECTION 2: The County Court at Law No. 4 of Williamson County is created on January 1, 2006.

SECTION 3: This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Act takes effect September 1, 2005