

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 835
By: Gattis
Judiciary
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Williamson County continues to experience tremendous population growth. This trend began in the late 1980s. According to statistics from the United States Census Bureau, the population increased from 139,551 in 1990 to 249,967 in 2000. The 2003 population estimate stands at 303,587, which represents a 21.5% increase since 2000. In comparison, Texas experienced a 6.1% increase from 2000 to 2003. While the distinction of being one of the fastest growing counties in the state and the nation provides many opportunities, there also challenges. One of the areas experiencing a real impact is the court system.

Williamson County currently has four district courts, with the most recent, the 413th Judicial District, being created in 1999. There is a demonstrated need for another district court. House Bill 835 would create a fifth district court in Williamson County. The creation of this additional district court will help relieve the crowded dockets of 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

The bill amends the Government Code by adding Section 24.569 creating the 425th Judicial District composed of Williamson County. The district is to be created January 1, 2007.

Notwithstanding Sections 210.027 and 202.003, Election Code, the initial vacancy is to be filled by appointment as provided by Section 24.311, Government Code.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2006