

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 1119
By: Frost
Judiciary
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently the Texas 5th District Court handles cases for both Bowie and Cass counties. Due to population increases, there is a backlog in the docket. According to recent data from the Cass County clerk, there are 2091 cases pending in this court from Cass County. An additional 852 cases are pending in this court from Bowie County.

HB 1119 would establish a county court at law for Cass County, providing relief for the 5th District Court.

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 Chapter 25 of the Government Code by adding new sections creating and setting forth the jurisdiction of a new county court at law for Cass County. The court is to have the jurisdiction granted by Section 25.0003 and concurrent jurisdiction with the district court, including specific grants of jurisdiction set forth in the bill. The court would not have jurisdiction to supervise or review the commissioner's court or over 4 types of actions set out in Section 25.0362(b).

The bill mandates collection of the fee under Section 51.702, Government Code, and provides a travel budget to the judge at least equal to that of the county judge.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Immediately upon receipt of two thirds vote in each house. Otherwise, September 1, 2005.