

By: Keel

H.B. No. 3414

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the jurisdiction and operation of the county courts at  
3 law in Travis County.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 25.2292, Government Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsections (a) and (d) and adding Subsection (n) to read  
7 as follows:

8 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section  
9 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in Travis County has  
10 concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in civil cases  
11 regardless of the amount [in which the matter] in controversy and in  
12 family law cases and proceedings [exceeds \$500 but does not exceed  
13 \$250,000, excluding interest, statutory or punitive damages and  
14 penalties, and attorney's fees and costs, as alleged on the face of  
15 the petition].

16 (d) In civil cases, the jury is composed of six members  
17 unless a party to the case files a written request for a 12-member  
18 jury not later than the 30th day before the date of the trial and:

19 (1) the amount in controversy exceeds \$100,000; or  
20 [and]

21 (2) a party is requesting relief under Title 1 or 5,  
22 Family Code [a party to the case files a written request for a  
23 12-member jury not later than the 30th day before the date of the  
24 trial].

1           (n) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at  
2 law in all cases arising under Title 1 or 5, Family Code.

3           SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
4 to an action filed on or after the effective date of this Act. An  
5 action filed before the effective date of this Act is covered by the  
6 law in effect on the date the action was filed, and the former law is  
7 continued in effect for that purpose.

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