

By: Wentworth

S.B. No. 729

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a weighted caseload study of the district courts.

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

SECTION 1. STUDY. (a) The Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System shall contract with an independent nonprofit organization that specializes in providing technical assistance and consulting services to courts to conduct a study of the caseloads of the district courts in this state for the purpose of making recommendations regarding the implementation of a systematic approach for analyzing the need for new district courts. The study must concentrate on the weighted caseload of each district court, considering the nature and complexity of the cases heard by each court.

(b) Not later than September 1, 2006, the organization that conducts the study required by Subsection (a) of this section shall report the results of the study to the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System. Not later than October 1, 2006, the office shall file a report on those results with the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chairs of the standing committees of the senate and house of representatives with jurisdiction over the judicial system.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.