

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1620

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the composition of the judicial districts in Cameron and Willacy Counties.

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

SECTION 1. Section 24.205, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 24.205. 103rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT (CAMERON COUNTY [~~AND WILLACY COUNTIES~~]). (a) The 103rd Judicial District is composed of Cameron County [~~and Willacy counties~~]. The court shall give preference to civil cases.

(b) The 103rd, 107th, and 138th district courts have concurrent jurisdiction.

(c) The terms of the 103rd District Court begin[+] [~~(1) in Cameron County~~] on the first Mondays in February and July[+, and [~~(2) in Willacy County on the first Mondays in January and June~~].

(d) The judges of the 103rd and 107th district courts need not impanel grand juries except in cases of emergency.

SECTION 2. Section 24.209, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 24.209. 107th JUDICIAL DISTRICT (CAMERON COUNTY [~~AND WILLACY COUNTIES~~]). (a) The 107th Judicial District is composed of Cameron County [~~and Willacy counties~~]. The court shall give

1 preference to criminal cases.

2 (b) The terms of the 107th District Court begin on the first
3 Mondays in January and July.

4 (c) Section 24.205, relating to the 103rd District Court,
5 contains provisions applicable to both that court and the 107th
6 District Court.

7 SECTION 3. Section 24.240, Government Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 Sec. 24.240. 138th JUDICIAL DISTRICT (CAMERON COUNTY [~~AND~~
10 ~~WILLACY COUNTIES~~]). (a) The 138th Judicial District is composed
11 of Cameron County [~~and Willacy counties~~]. The court shall give
12 preference to criminal cases.

13 (b) The terms of the 138th District Court begin[~~+~~
14 [~~(1) in Cameron County~~] on the first Mondays in March,
15 July, and November [~~+~~ and
16 [~~(2) in Willacy County on the first Mondays in~~
17 ~~January, May, and September~~].

18 (c) The judge of the 138th District Court shall impanel
19 grand juries at all times required by law.

20 (d) Section 24.205, relating to the 103rd District Court,
21 contains provisions applicable to both that court and the 138th
22 District Court.

23 SECTION 4. Section 24.503, Government Code, is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 Sec. 24.503. 357th JUDICIAL DISTRICT (CAMERON COUNTY [~~AND~~
26 ~~WILLACY COUNTIES~~]). The 357th Judicial District is composed of
27 Cameron County [~~and Willacy counties~~].

1 SECTION 5. Section 24.549, Government Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 Sec. 24.549. 404th JUDICIAL DISTRICT (CAMERON COUNTY [~~AND~~
4 ~~WILLACY COUNTIES~~]). The 404th Judicial District is composed of
5 Cameron County [~~and Willacy counties~~].

6 SECTION 6. (a) The local administrative district judge
7 shall transfer all cases from Willacy County that are pending in the
8 103rd, 107th, 138th, 357th, and 404th district courts on September
9 1, 2005, to the 197th District Court.

10 (b) When a case is transferred as provided by Subsection (a)
11 of this section, all processes, writs, bonds, recognizances, or
12 other obligations issued from the 103rd, 107th, 138th, 357th, and
13 404th district courts are returnable to the 197th District Court as
14 if originally issued by that court. The obligees on all bonds and
15 recognizances taken in and for the 103rd, 107th, 138th, 357th, and
16 404th district courts and all witnesses summoned to appear in those
17 courts are required to appear before the 197th District Court as if
18 originally required to appear before that court.

19 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.