

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 79TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**April 26, 2005**

**TO:** Honorable Jeff Wentworth, Chair, Senate Committee on Jurisprudence

**FROM:** John S. O'Brien, Deputy Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB564** by Gattis (Relating to the creation of an additional county court at law in Williamson County.), **As Engrossed**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would amend Section 25.2481, Government Code to create an additional county court at law in Williamson County. The bill would create the County Court at Law No. 4 of Williamson County on January 1, 2006. The bill would take effect on September 1, 2005.

**Local Government Impact**

The Comptroller of Public Accounts contacted officials in Williamson County. Currently, Williamson County has three statutory county courts at law and the bill would add a fourth court on January 1, 2006. The county would be responsible for all expenses beginning in fiscal year 2006. According to the County Judge, the county would pay a \$75,000 in start-up costs for office space, furniture, office equipment, and other like expenditures. The average operating cost of the three current county courts is \$393,898 annually.

The average revenue collected by each county court is \$303,526 annually. It is assumed that improved caseload management brought about by the creation of a new county court could result in higher revenues; however, the amount of increased revenues cannot be estimated.

The county's fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30. The fiscal year 2006 estimate is lower than the other fiscal years because it was prorated for only three months, plus the start-up cost.

**Source Agencies:** 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts

**LBB Staff:** JOB, DLBa