

**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: SB1875** by Hinojosa (Relating to the creation of an additional county court at law in Hidalgo County.), **As Introduced**

<b>No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b>
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The bill would amend Chapter 25 of the Government Code to create a fifth county court at law in Hidalgo County. The court would be created on the effective date of this bill, September 1, 2005.

**Local Government Impact**

According to the Hidalgo County Budget Officer, the county would be responsible for the annual salary and benefits of the court's judge and support staff (\$390,416). In addition to the annual operating costs for a county court (\$24,584), Hidalgo County expects a one-time capital expenditure to renovate the court room (\$500,000). Since Hidalgo County's fiscal year begins on January 1, the county would incur a cost of \$638,333 for fiscal year 2005, thereafter the cost would be \$415,000 annually. It is assumed that the improved case load management brought about by the creation of a new county court could result in higher revenues.

**Source Agencies:** 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts

**LBB Staff:** JOB, LB, ZS, ER