By: Woolley, Corte, Callegari, Cook of Colorado, Orr, et al.

H.B. No. 2006

C.S.H.B. No. 2006

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2006:

By: Orr

## A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

- 2 relating to the use of eminent domain authority.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
- 4 SECTION 1. Section 552.0037, Government Code, is amended to 5 read as follows:
- 6 Sec. 552.0037. CERTAIN ENTITIES AUTHORIZED TO TAKE PROPERTY
- 7 THROUGH EMINENT DOMAIN. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, and
- 8 except as provided by this section, information collected,
- 9 assembled, or maintained by an entity that is not a governmental
- 10 body but is authorized by law to take private property through the
- 11 use of eminent domain is subject to this chapter in the same manner
- 12 as information collected, assembled, or maintained by a
- 13 governmental body, but only if the information is:
- 14 (1) requested by a person who owns property that is the
- 15 subject of a proposed or existing eminent domain proceeding; and
- 16 (2) related to the taking of the person's private
- 17 property by the entity through the use of eminent domain.
- (b) Notwithstanding Section 552.007, an entity described by
- 19 Subsection (a) is required under this section only to produce
- 20 documents relating to the condemnation of the specific property
- owned by the requestor as described in the request.
- (c) A request under this section must contain sufficient
- 23 details to allow the entity to identify the specific tract of land
- in relation to which the information is sought.

- 1 SECTION 2. Chapter 2206, Government Code, is amended to
- 2 read as follows:
- 3 CHAPTER 2206. [LIMITATIONS ON USE OF] EMINENT DOMAIN
- 4 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS
- 5 Sec. 2206.001. DEFINITION OF PUBLIC USE. Except as
- 6 otherwise provided by this chapter, "public use," with respect to
- 7 the use of eminent domain authority, means a use of property,
- 8 including a use described by Section 2206.051(c), that allows the
- 9 state, a political subdivision of the state, or the general public
- of the state to possess, occupy, and enjoy the property.
- SUBCHAPTER B. LIMITATIONS ON PURPOSE AND USE OF PROPERTY
- 12 ACQUIRED THROUGH EMINENT DOMAIN
- 13 Sec. 2206.051. LIMITATION ON EMINENT DOMAIN FOR PRIVATE
- 14 PARTIES OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. (a) This section
- 15 applies to the use of eminent domain under the laws of this state,
- 16 including a local or special law, by any governmental or private
- 17 entity, including:
- 18 (1) a state agency, including an institution of higher
- 19 education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code;
- 20 (2) a political subdivision of this state; or
- 21 (3) a corporation created by a governmental entity to
- 22 act on behalf of the entity.
- 23 (b) A governmental or private entity may not take private
- 24 property through the use of eminent domain if the taking:
- 25 (1) confers a private benefit on a particular private
- 26 party through the use of the property;
- 27 (2) is for a public use that is merely a pretext to

- 1 confer a private benefit on a particular private party; or
- 2 (3) is for economic development purposes, unless the
- 3 economic development is a secondary purpose resulting from
- 4 municipal community development or municipal urban renewal
- 5 activities to eliminate an existing affirmative harm on society
- 6 from slum or blighted areas under:
- 7 (A) Chapter 373 or 374, Local Government Code,
- 8 other than an activity described by Section 373.002(b)(5), Local
- 9 Government Code; or
- 10 (B) Section 311.005(a)(1)(I), Tax Code.
- 11 (c) This section does not affect the authority of an entity
- 12 authorized by law to take private property through the use of
- 13 eminent domain for:
- 14 (1) transportation projects, including, but not
- 15 limited to, railroads, airports, or public roads or highways;
- 16 (2) entities authorized under Section 59, Article XVI,
- 17 Texas Constitution, including:
- 18 (A) port authorities;
- 19 (B) navigation districts; and
- 20 (C) any other conservation or reclamation
- 21 districts that act as ports;
- 22 (3) water supply, wastewater, flood control, and
- 23 drainage projects;
- 24 (4) public buildings, hospitals, and parks;
- 25 (5) the provision of utility services;
- 26 (6) a sports and community venue project approved by
- voters at an election held on or before December 1, 2005, under

- 1 Chapter 334 or 335, Local Government Code;
- 2 (7) the operations of:
- 3 (A) a common carrier subject to Chapter 111,
- 4 Natural Resources Code[, and Section B(3)(b), Article 2.01, Texas
- 5 Business Corporation Act]; or
- 6 (B) an energy transporter, as that term is
- 7 defined by Section 186.051, Utilities Code;
- 8 (8) a purpose authorized by Chapter 181, Utilities
- 9 Code;
- 10 (9) underground storage operations subject to Chapter
- 11 91, Natural Resources Code;
- 12 (10) a waste disposal project; or
- 13 (11) a library, museum, or related facility and any
- infrastructure related to the facility.
- 15 (d) This section does not affect the authority of a
- 16 governmental entity to condemn a leasehold estate on property owned
- 17 by the governmental entity.
- 18 (e) The determination by the governmental or private entity
- 19 proposing to take the property that the taking does not involve an
- 20 act or circumstance prohibited by Subsection (b) does not create a
- 21 presumption with respect to whether the taking involves that act or
- 22 circumstance.
- SUBCHAPTER C. PROCEDURES REQUIRED TO INITIATE
- 24 EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS
- 25 Sec. 2206.101. SHORT TITLE. This subchapter may be cited as
- the Truth in Condemnation Procedures Act.
- Sec. 2206.102. APPLICABILITY. The procedures in this

- 1 subchapter apply only to the use of eminent domain under the laws of
- 2 this state by a governmental entity.
- 3 Sec. 2206.103. VOTE ON USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN. (a) Before a
- 4 governmental entity initiates a condemnation proceeding under
- 5 Chapter 21, Property Code, the governmental entity must authorize
- 6 the initiation of the condemnation proceedings at a public meeting
- 7 by a record vote. Except as provided by Subsection (b), a separate
- 8 record vote must be taken for each unit of property for which
- 9 condemnation proceedings are to be initiated.
- 10 (b) For the purposes of Subsection (a), if two or more units
- of real property are owned by the same person, the governmental
- 12 entity may treat those units of property as one unit of property.
- 13 (c) The motion to adopt an ordinance, resolution, or order
- 14 <u>authorizing the initiation of condemnation proceedings under</u>
- 15 Chapter 21, Property Code, must be made in a form substantially
- similar to the following: "I move that the [name of governmental
- 17 entity] authorize the use of the power of eminent domain to acquire
- 18 [describe the property] for [describe the public use]."
- 19 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Property Code, is
- amended by adding Sections 21.0112 and 21.0113 to read as follows:
- Sec. 21.0112. GOOD FAITH STANDARD. An entity with eminent
- 22 domain authority that wants to acquire real property for a public
- 23 use must make a good faith effort to acquire the property by
- voluntary purchase or lease.
- Sec. 21.0113. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES FOR CERTAIN COMMON
- 26 CARRIERS. (a) This section applies only to a condemnation
- 27 proceeding initiated by a common carrier, as that term is defined by

- 1 <u>Section 111.002, Natural Resources Code.</u>
- 2 (b) A common carrier that intends to exercise the power of
- 3 eminent domain must serve the owner of the property to be acquired
- 4 with notice that the common carrier intends to initiate
- 5 condemnation proceedings on or before the date the common carrier
- 6 files a condemnation petition.
- 7 <u>(c) A notice required under this section must be served to</u>
- 8 the property owner by:
- 9 (1) regular mail; and
- 10 (2) certified mail, return receipt requested.
- 11 (d) A common carrier has the burden of proof to establish
- that a property owner received notice required by Subsection (b).
- SECTION 4. Section 21.012(b), Property Code, is amended to
- 14 read as follows:
- 15 (b) The petition must:
- 16 (1) describe the property to be condemned;
- 17 (2) state the purpose for which the entity intends to
- 18 use the property;
- 19 (3) state the name of the owner of the property if the
- 20 owner is known; [and]
- 21 (4) state that the entity and the property owner are
- 22 unable to agree on the damages; and
- 23 (5) state that the entity made a good faith effort to
- 24 acquire the property by voluntary purchase or lease.
- 25 SECTION 5. Section 21.023, Property Code, is amended to
- 26 read as follows:
- Sec. 21.023. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION REQUIRED AT TIME OF

- 1 ACQUISITION. A governmental entity shall disclose in writing to
- 2 the property owner, at the time of acquisition of the property
- 3 through eminent domain, that:
- 4 (1) the owner or the owner's heirs, successors, or
- 5 assigns are entitled to repurchase the property if the public use
- 6 for which the property was acquired through eminent domain is
- 7 canceled before the 10th anniversary of the date of acquisition;
- 8 and
- 9 (2) the repurchase price is the price paid to the owner
- 10 by the governmental entity at the time the governmental entity
- 11 acquired the property through eminent domain [fair market value of
- 12 the property at the time the public use was canceled].
- 13 SECTION 6. Section 21.041, Property Code, is amended to
- 14 read as follows:
- Sec. 21.041. EVIDENCE. As the basis for assessing actual
- 16 damages to a property owner from a condemnation, the special
- 17 commissioners shall admit evidence on:
- 18 (1) the value of the property being condemned,
- 19 including any evidence that a property owner would consider in a
- 20 negotiated transaction that is not subject to this chapter;
- 21 (2) the injury to the property owner;
- 22 (3) the benefit to the property owner's remaining
- 23 property; and
- 24 (4) the use of the property for the purpose of the
- 25 condemnation.
- 26 SECTION 7. The heading to Section 21.047, Property Code, is
- 27 amended to read as follows:

- 1 Sec. 21.047. ASSESSMENT OF COSTS AND FEES.
- 2 SECTION 8. Section 21.047, Property Code, is amended by
- 3 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:
- 4 (d) If a court hearing a suit under this chapter finds that a
- 5 condemning entity did not make a good faith effort to acquire the
- 6 property by voluntary purchase or lease as required by Section
- 7 21.0112, the court may order the condemning entity to pay all costs
- 8 and any reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the property owner.
- 9 SECTION 9. Section 21.101(a), Property Code, is amended to
- 10 read as follows:
- 11 (a) Except as provided in Subsection (b), this subchapter
- 12 applies only to a real property interest acquired by a governmental
- 13 entity through eminent domain for a public use. A person from whom
- 14 the property interest is acquired or that person's heirs,
- 15 successors, or assigns are entitled to repurchase the property as
- 16 provided by this subchapter if that public use was canceled before
- 17 the 10th anniversary of the date of acquisition.
- SECTION 10. Section 21.103(b), Property Code, is amended to
- 19 read as follows:
- (b) As soon as practicable after receipt of  $\underline{a}$  [the]
- 21 notification under Subsection (a), the governmental entity shall
- offer to sell the property interest to the person for the price paid
- 23 to the owner by the governmental entity at the time the governmental
- 24 entity acquired the property through eminent domain [fair market
- 25 value of the property at the time the public use was canceled]. The
- 26 person's right to repurchase the property expires on the 90th day
- 27 after the date on which the governmental entity makes the offer.

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- 1 SECTION 11. Section 101.061, Government Code, is amended to
- 2 read as follows:
- 3 Sec. 101.061. DISTRICT COURT FEES AND COSTS. The clerk of a
- 4 district court shall collect fees and costs as follows:
- 5 (1) filing fee in action with respect to a fraudulent
- 6 court record or fraudulent lien or claim filed against property
- 7 (Sec. 12.005, Civil Practice and Remedies Code) . . . \$15;
- 8 (2) fee for service of notice of action with respect to
- 9 a fraudulent court record or fraudulent lien or claim filed against
- 10 property (Sec. 12.005, Civil Practice and Remedies Code) . . . not
- 11 to exceed \$20, if notice delivered in person, or the cost of
- 12 postage, if service is by registered or certified mail;
- 13 (3) court cost in certain civil cases to establish and
- 14 maintain an alternative dispute resolution system, if authorized by
- 15 the county commissioners court (Sec. 152.004, Civil Practice and
- 16 Remedies Code) . . . not to exceed \$10;
- 17 (4) appellate judicial system filing fees for:
- 18 (A) First or Fourteenth Court of Appeals District
- 19 (Sec. 22.2021, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;
- 20 (B) Second Court of Appeals District (Sec.
- 21 22.2031, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;
- 22 (C) Fourth Court of Appeals District (Sec.
- 23 22.2051, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;
- 24 (D) Fifth Court of Appeals District (Sec.
- 25 22.2061, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5; and
- 26 (E) Thirteenth Court of Appeals District (Sec.
- 27 22.2141, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;

- 1 (5) additional filing fees:
- 2 (A) for each suit filed for insurance contingency
- 3 fund, if authorized by the county commissioners court (Sec. 51.302,
- 4 Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$5;
- 5 (B) for each civil suit filed, for court-related
- 6 purposes for the support of the judiciary and for civil legal
- 7 services to an indigent:
- 8 (i) for family law cases and proceedings as
- 9 defined by Section 25.0002, Government Code (Sec. 133.151, Local
- 10 Government Code) . . . \$45; or
- 11 (ii) for any case other than a case
- described by Subparagraph (i) (Sec. 133.151, Local Government Code)
- 13 . . . \$50;
- 14 (C) to fund the improvement of Dallas County
- 15 civil court facilities, if authorized by the county commissioners
- 16 court (Sec. 51.705, Government Code) . . . not more than \$15; and
- 17 (D) on the filing of any civil action or
- 18 proceeding requiring a filing fee, including an appeal, and on the
- 19 filing of any counterclaim, cross-action, intervention,
- 20 interpleader, or third-party action requiring a filing fee, to fund
- 21 civil legal services for the indigent:
- 22 (i) for family law cases and proceedings as
- 23 defined by Section 25.0002, Government Code (Sec. 133.152, Local
- 24 Government Code) . . . \$5; or
- 25 (ii) for any case other than a case
- described by Subparagraph (i) (Sec. 133.152, Local Government Code)
- 27 . . . \$10;

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- 1 (6) for filing a suit, including an appeal from an
- 2 inferior court:
- 3 (A) for a suit with 10 or fewer plaintiffs (Sec.
- 4 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$50;
- 5 (B) for a suit with at least 11 but not more than
- 6 25 plaintiffs (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$75;
- 7 (C) for a suit with at least 26 but not more than
- 8 100 plaintiffs (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$100;
- 9 (D) for a suit with at least 101 but not more than
- 10 500 plaintiffs (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$125;
- 11 (E) for a suit with at least 501 but not more than
- 12 1,000 plaintiffs (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$150; or
- 13 (F) for a suit with more than 1,000 plaintiffs
- 14 (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$200;
- 15 (7) for filing a cross-action, counterclaim,
- intervention, contempt action, motion for new trial, or third-party
- 17 petition (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$15;
- 18 (8) for issuing a citation or other writ or process not
- 19 otherwise provided for, including one copy, when requested at the
- 20 time a suit or action is filed (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . .
- 21 \$8;
- 22 (9) for records management and preservation (Sec.
- 23 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$10;
- 24 (10) for issuing a subpoena, including one copy (Sec.
- 25 51.318, Government Code) . . . \$8;
- 26 (11) for issuing a citation, commission for
- 27 deposition, writ of execution, order of sale, writ of execution and

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- 1 order of sale, writ of injunction, writ of garnishment, writ of
- 2 attachment, or writ of sequestration not provided for in Section
- 3 51.317, or any other writ or process not otherwise provided for,
- 4 including one copy if required by law (Sec. 51.318, Government
- 5 Code) . . . \$8;
- 6 (12) for searching files or records to locate a cause
- 7 when the docket number is not provided (Sec. 51.318, Government
- 8 Code) . . . \$5;
- 9 (13) for searching files or records to ascertain the
- 10 existence of an instrument or record in the district clerk's office
- 11 (Sec. 51.318, Government Code) . . . \$5;
- 12 (14) for abstracting a judgment (Sec. 51.318,
- 13 Government Code) . . . \$8;
- 14 (15) for approving a bond (Sec. 51.318, Government
- 15 Code) . . . \$4;
- 16 (16) for a certified copy of a record, judgment,
- 17 order, pleading, or paper on file or of record in the district
- 18 clerk's office, including certificate and seal, for each page or
- 19 part of a page (Sec. 51.318, Government Code) . . . \$1;
- 20 (17) for a noncertified copy, for each page or part of
- 21 a page (Sec. 51.318, Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$1;
- 22 (18) jury fee (Sec. 51.604, Government Code) . . .
- 23 \$30;
- 24 (19) for filing a report of divorce or annulment (Sec.
- 25 194.002, Health and Safety Code) . . . \$1;
- 26 (20) for filing a suit in Comal County (Sec. 152.0522,
- 27 Human Resources Code) . . . \$4;

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- 1 (21) additional filing fee for family protection on
- 2 filing a suit for dissolution of a marriage under Chapter 6, Family
- 3 Code, if authorized by the county commissioners court (Sec. 51.961,
- 4 Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$30;
- 5 (22) fee on filing a suit for dissolution of a marriage
- 6 for services of child support department in Harris County, if
- 7 authorized by the county commissioners court (Sec. 152.1074, Human
- 8 Resources Code) . . . not to exceed \$12;
- 9 (22-a) a child support service fee in Nueces County if
- 10 ordered by the commissioners court and assessed by the court (Sec.
- 11 152.1844, Human Resources Code) . . . not to exceed \$5 a month
- 12 payable annually in advance;
- 13 (22-b) a service fee to be paid by a person ordered by
- 14 a district court to pay child or spousal support:
- 15 (A) in Collin County if authorized by the
- juvenile board (Sec. 152.0492, Human Resources Code) . . . not to
- 17 exceed \$2.50 added to first support payment each month;
- 18 (B) in Johnson County if authorized by the
- 19 juvenile board (Sec. 152.1322, Human Resources Code) . . . \$1.00
- 20 added to first support payment each month; and
- 21 (C) in Montague County (Sec. 152.1752, Human
- 22 Resources Code) . . . \$1 if fee is ordered to be paid monthly, 50
- cents if fee is ordered to be paid semimonthly or weekly;
- 24 (22-c) attorney's fees as an additional cost in
- 25 Montague County on a finding of contempt of court for failure to pay
- 26 child or spousal support if the contempt action is initiated by the
- 27 probation department (Sec. 152.1752, Human Resources Code) . . .

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1 $15;
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- 2 (23) fee on filing a suit requesting an adoption in
- 3 Montague County (Sec. 152.1752, Human Resources Code) . . . \$25;
- 4 (24) court cost on citation for contempt of court for
- 5 failure to comply with child support order in Nueces County, if
- 6 authorized by the commissioners court (Sec. 152.1844, Human
- 7 Resources Code) . . . not to exceed \$10;
- 8 (25) fee on filing a suit for divorce in Orange County
- 9 (Sec. 152.1873, Human Resources Code) . . . not less than \$5;
- 10 (26) court costs on citation for contempt of court in
- 11 Orange County for failure to comply with a child support order or
- 12 order providing for possession of or access to a child (Sec.
- 13 152.1873, Human Resources Code) . . . amount determined by district
- 14 clerk;
- 15 (27) fee on filing a suit requesting an adoption in
- 16 Orange County (Sec. 152.1874, Human Resources Code) . . . not less
- 17 than \$25;
- 18 (28) fee on filing a suit requesting an adoption in
- 19 Wichita County (Sec. 152.2496, Human Resources Code) . . . \$100;
- 20 (29) additional filing fee to fund the courthouse
- 21 security fund, if authorized by the county commissioners court
- 22 (Sec. 291.008, Local Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$5;
- 23 (30) additional filing fee for filing documents not
- 24 subject to certain filing fees to fund the courthouse security
- 25 fund, if authorized by the county commissioners court (Sec.
- 26 291.008, Local Government Code) . . . \$1;
- 27 (31) additional filing fee to fund the courthouse

- 1 security fund in Webb County, if authorized by the county
- 2 commissioners court (Sec. 291.009, Local Government Code) . . . not
- 3 to exceed \$20;
- 4 (32) court cost in civil cases other than suits for
- 5 delinquent taxes to fund the county law library fund, if authorized
- 6 by the county commissioners court (Sec. 323.023, Local Government
- 7 Code) . . not to exceed \$35;
- 8 (33) when administering a case for the Rockwall County
- 9 Court at Law (Sec. 25.2012, Government Code) . . . civil fees and
- 10 court costs as if the case had been filed in district court;
- 11 (34) at a hearing held by an associate judge in Dallas
- 12 County, a court cost to preserve the record, in the absence of a
- court reporter, by other means (Sec. 54.509, Government Code) . . .
- 14 as assessed by the referring court or associate judge;
- 15 (35) at a hearing held by an associate judge in Duval
- 16 County, a court cost to preserve the record (Sec. 54.1151,
- 17 Government Code, as added by Chapter 1150, Acts of the 78th
- 18 Legislature, Regular Session, 2003) . . . as imposed by the
- 19 referring court or associate judge;
- 20 (36) court fees and costs, if ordered by the court, for
- 21 a suit filed by an inmate in which an affidavit or unsworn
- declaration of inability to pay costs is filed by the inmate (Sec.
- 23 14.006, Civil Practice and Remedies Code) . . . the lesser of:
- 24 (A) 20 percent of the preceding six months'
- 25 deposits to the inmate's trust account administered by the Texas
- 26 Department of Criminal Justice under Section 501.014, Government
- 27 Code; or

- 1 (B) the total amount of court fees and costs;
- 2 (37) monthly payment for remaining court fees and
- 3 costs after the initial payment for a suit in which an affidavit or
- 4 unsworn declaration of inability to pay costs is filed by the inmate
- 5 (Sec. 14.006, Civil Practice and Remedies Code) . . . the lesser
- 6 of:
- 7 (A) 10 percent of that month's deposit to the
- 8 inmate's trust account administered by the Texas Department of
- 9 Criminal Justice under Section 501.014, Government Code; or
- 10 (B) the total amount of court fees and costs that
- 11 remain unpaid;
- 12 (38) the following costs not otherwise charged to the
- inmate under Section 14.006, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, if
- 14 the inmate has previously filed an action dismissed as malicious or
- frivolous (Sec. 14.007, Civil Practice and Remedies Code):
- 16 (A) expenses of service of process;
- 17 (B) postage; and
- 18 (C) transportation, housing, or medical care
- 19 incurred in connection with the appearance of the inmate in the
- 20 court for any proceeding;
- 21 (39) fee for performing a service:
- 22 (A) related to the matter of the estate of a
- 23 deceased person (Sec. 51.319, Government Code) . . . the same fee
- 24 allowed the county clerk for those services;
- 25 (B) related to the matter of a minor (Sec.
- 26 51.319, Government Code) . . . the same fee allowed the county
- 27 clerk for the service;

- C.S.H.B. No. 2006 1 (C) of serving process by certified or registered 2 mail (Sec. 51.319, Government Code) . . . the same fee a sheriff or 3 constable is authorized to charge for the service under Section 118.131, Local Government Code; and 4 5 (D) prescribed or authorized by law but for which 6 no fee is set (Sec. 51.319, Government Code) . . . a reasonable fee; 7 court costs, which may include expert witness 8 fees in Travis County in an action in which the plaintiff prevails against an insurer for economic damages sustained by the plaintiff 9 as a result of unfair discrimination (Sec. 544.054, Insurance Code) 10 . . . court costs and reasonable and necessary expert witness fees; 11 12 (41)security deposit on filing, by any person other than the personal representative of an estate, an application, 13 14 complaint, or opposition in relation to the estate, if required by 15 the clerk (Sec. 12, Texas Probate Code) . . . probable cost of the 16 proceeding; (42)17 security deposit on filing, by any person other than the guardian, attorney ad litem, or guardian ad litem, an 18 19 application, complaint, or opposition in relation to a guardianship matter, if required by the clerk (Sec. 622, Texas Probate Code) 20 . . . probable cost of the guardianship proceeding; [and] 21 fee for filing an additional petition for review 22
- of an appraisal review board order relating to certain regulated 23 24 property running through or operating in more than one county after the first petition for review relating to the same property is filed 25 26 for a tax year (Sec. 42.221, Tax Code) . . . \$5;
- 27 (44) court costs for each special commissioner in an

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- eminent domain proceeding (Sec. 21.047, Property Code) . . . as
- 2 taxed by the court, \$10 or more; and
- 3 (45) court costs and attorney's fees in an eminent
- 4 domain proceeding (Sec. 21.047, Property Code) . . . as taxed by
- 5 the court and as reasonable, respectively.
- 6 SECTION 12. Section 101.081, Government Code, is amended to
- 7 read as follows:
- 8 Sec. 101.081. STATUTORY COUNTY COURT FEES AND COSTS. The
- 9 clerk of a statutory county court shall collect fees and costs as
- 10 follows:
- 11 (1) court cost in certain civil cases to establish and
- 12 maintain an alternative dispute resolution system, if authorized by
- 13 the county commissioners court (Sec. 152.004, Civil Practice and
- 14 Remedies Code) . . . not to exceed \$10;
- 15 (2) appellate judicial system filing fees:
- 16 (A) First or Fourteenth Court of Appeals District
- 17 (Sec. 22.2021, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;
- 18 (B) Second Court of Appeals District (Sec.
- 19 22.2031, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;
- 20 (C) Fourth Court of Appeals District (Sec.
- 21 22.2051, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;
- 22 (D) Fifth Court of Appeals District (Sec.
- 23 22.2061, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5; and
- 24 (E) Thirteenth Court of Appeals District (Sec.
- 25 22.2141, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;
- 26 (3) an official court reporter fee, County Court at
- 27 Law No. 2 of Bexar County (Sec. 25.0172, Government Code) . . . \$3;

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- 1 (4) a court reporter fee when testimony is taken in a
- 2 county court at law in McLennan County (Sec. 25.1572, Government
- 3 Code) . . . \$3;
- 4 (5) a stenographer fee, if a record or part of a record
- 5 is made:
- 6 (A) in a county court at law in Hidalgo County
- 7 (Sec. 25.1102, Government Code) . . . \$20; and
- 8 (B) in a county court at law in Nolan County (Sec.
- 9 25.1792, Government Code) . . . \$25;
- 10 (6) jury fee (Sec. 51.604, Government Code) . . . \$22;
- 11 (7) an additional filing fee:
- 12 (A) for each civil case filed to be used for
- 13 court-related purposes for the support of the judiciary, if
- 14 authorized by the county commissioners court (Sec. 51.702,
- 15 Government Code) . . . \$40;
- 16 (B) to fund the improvement of Dallas County
- 17 civil court facilities, if authorized by the county commissioners
- 18 court (Sec. 51.705, Government Code) . . . not more than \$15; and
- 19 (C) for filing any civil action or proceeding
- 20 requiring a filing fee, including an appeal, and on the filing of
- 21 any counterclaim, cross-action, intervention, interpleader, or
- 22 third-party action requiring a filing fee, to fund civil legal
- 23 services for the indigent (Sec. 133.153, Local Government Code)
- 24 . . . \$5;
- 25 (8) for filing an application for registration of
- 26 death (Sec. 193.007, Health and Safety Code) . . . \$1;
- 27 (9) fee for judge's services on an application for

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- 1 court-ordered mental health services (Sec. 574.031, Health and
- 2 Safety Code) . . . not to exceed \$50;
- 3 (10) fee for prosecutor's services on an application
- 4 for court-ordered mental health services (Sec. 574.031, Health and
- 5 Safety Code) . . . not to exceed \$50;
- 6 (11) for filing a suit in Comal County (Sec. 152.0522,
- 7 Human Resources Code) . . . \$4;
- 8 (12) additional filing fee to fund contingency fund
- 9 for liability insurance, if authorized by the county commissioners
- 10 court (Sec. 82.003, Local Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$5;
- 11 (13) civil court actions (Sec. 118.052, Local
- 12 Government Code):
- 13 (A) filing of original action (Secs. 118.052 and
- 14 118.053, Local Government Code):
- 15 (i) garnishment after judgment (Sec.
- 16 118.052, Local Government Code) . . . \$15; and
- 17 (ii) all others (Sec. 118.052, Local
- 18 Government Code) . . . \$40;
- 19 (B) filing of action other than original (Secs.
- 20 118.052 and 118.054, Local Government Code) . . . \$30; and
- 21 (C) services rendered after judgment in original
- action (Secs. 118.052 and 118.0545, Local Government Code):
- (i) abstract of judgment (Sec. 118.052,
- 24 Local Government Code) . . . \$5; and
- 25 (ii) execution, order of sale, writ, or
- other process (Sec. 118.052, Local Government Code) . . . \$5;
- 27 (14) probate court actions (Sec. 118.052, Local

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(Sec.

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2
                     (A)
                          probate original action (Secs. 118.052 and
 3
    118.055, Local Government Code):
 4
                           (i)
                              probate of a will with independent
5
    executor, administration with will attached, administration of an
    estate, guardianship or receivership of an estate, or muniment of
6
    title (Sec. 118.052, Local Government Code) . . . $40;
7
8
                           (ii) community survivors (Sec. 118.052,
    Local Government Code) . . . $40;
9
10
                           (iii) small estates (Sec. 118.052, Local
    Government Code) . . . $40;
11
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14 (v) mental health or chemical dependency

(iv) declarations of

- 15 services (Sec. 118.052, Local Government Code) . . . \$40; and
- 16 (vi) additional, special fee (Secs. 118.052
- 17 and 118.064, Local Government Code) . . . \$5;

118.052, Local Government Code) . . . \$40;

- 18 (B) services in pending probate action (Secs.
- 19 118.052 and 118.056, Local Government Code):
- 20 (i) filing an inventory and appraisement
- 21 after the 120th day after the date of the initial filing of the
- 22 action (Sec. 118.052, Local Government Code) . . . \$25;
- 23 (ii) approving and recording bond (Sec.
- 24 118.052, Local Government Code) . . . \$3;
- 25 (iii) administering oath (Sec. 118.052,
- 26 Local Government Code) . . . \$2;

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12

13

Government Code):

27 (iv) filing annual or final account of

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     estate (Sec. 118.052, Local Government Code) . . . $25;
 1
 2
                                filing application for sale of real or
                           (V)
     personal property (Sec. 118.052, Local Government Code) . . . $25;
 3
 4
                           (vi) filing annual or final report of
 5
     guardian of a person (Sec. 118.052, Local Government Code) . . .
 6
     $10; and
 7
                           (vii) filing a document not listed under
 8
     this paragraph after the filing of an order approving the inventory
     and appraisement or after the 120th day after the date of the
 9
     initial filing of the action, whichever occurs first (Secs. 118.052
10
     and 191.007, Local Government Code), if more than 25 pages . . .
11
12
     $25;
                      (C)
                          adverse probate action (Secs. 118.052 and
13
     118.057, Local Government Code) . . . $40; and
14
15
                      (D)
                          claim against estate (Secs. 118.052
                                                                    and
     118.058, Local Government Code) . . . $2;
16
17
                (15)
                      other fees (Sec. 118.052, Local Government Code):
                           issuing document (Secs. 118.052 and 118.059,
18
19
     Local Government Code):
                                original document and one copy (Sec.
20
                           (i)
21
     118.052, Local Government Code) . . . $4; and
                           (ii) each additional set of an original and
22
     one copy (Sec. 118.052, Local Government Code) . . . $4;
23
24
                      (B)
                         certified papers (Secs. 118.052 and 118.060,
25
     Local Government Code):
26
                           (i) for the clerk's certificate
                                                                  (Sec.
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118.052, Local Government Code) . . . \$5; and

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- 1 (ii) a fee per page or part of a page (Sec.
- 2 118.052, Local Government Code) . . . \$1;
- 3 (C) noncertified papers, for each page or part of
- 4 a page (Secs. 118.052 and 118.0605, Local Government Code) . . .
- 5 \$1;
- 6 (D) letters testamentary, letter of
- 7 guardianship, letter of administration, or abstract of judgment
- 8 (Secs. 118.052 and 118.061, Local Government Code) . . . \$2;
- 9 (E) safekeeping of wills (Secs. 118.052 and
- 10 118.062, Local Government Code) . . . \$5;
- 11 (F) mail service of process (Secs. 118.052 and
- 12 118.063, Local Government Code) . . . same as sheriff; and
- 13 (G) records management and preservation fee
- 14 (Secs. 118.052, 118.0546, and 118.0645, Local Government Code)
- 15 ... \$5;
- 16 (16) additional filing fee to fund the courthouse
- 17 security fund, if authorized by the county commissioners court
- 18 (Sec. 291.008, Local Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$5;
- 19 (17) additional filing fee for filing documents not
- 20 subject to certain filing fees to fund the courthouse security
- 21 fund, if authorized by the county commissioners court (Sec.
- 22 291.008, Local Government Code) . . . \$1;
- 23 (18) additional filing fee to fund the courthouse
- 24 security fund in Webb County, if authorized by the county
- commissioners court (Sec. 291.009, Local Government Code) . . . not
- 26 to exceed \$20;
- 27 (19) court cost in civil cases other than suits for

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- 1 delinquent taxes to fund the county law library fund, if authorized
- 2 by the county commissioners court (Sec. 323.023, Local Government
- 3 Code) . . not to exceed \$35;
- 4 (20) fee for deposit of a will with the county clerk
- 5 during testator's lifetime (Sec. 71, Texas Probate Code) . . . \$3;
- 6 (21) court cost for each special commissioner in an
- 7 eminent domain proceeding (Sec. 21.047, Property Code) . . . as
- 8 taxed by the court, \$10 or more;
- 9 (21-a) court costs and attorney's fees in an eminent
- 10 domain proceeding (Sec. 21.047, Property Code) . . . as taxed by
- 11 the court and as reasonable, respectively;
- 12 (22) fee for county attorney in a suit regarding a
- 13 railroad company's failure to keep roadbed and right-of-way in
- 14 proper condition (Art. 6327, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes) . . .
- 15 \$10;
- 16 (23) court fees and costs, if ordered by the court, for
- 17 a suit filed by an inmate in which an affidavit or unsworn
- 18 declaration of inability to pay costs is filed by the inmate (Sec.
- 19 14.006, Civil Practice and Remedies Code) . . . the lesser of:
- 20 (A) 20 percent of the preceding six months'
- 21 deposits to the inmate's trust account administered by the Texas
- 22 Department of Criminal Justice under Section 501.014, Government
- 23 Code; or
- 24 (B) the total amount of court fees and costs;
- 25 (24) monthly payment for remaining court fees and
- 26 costs after the initial payment for a suit in which an affidavit or
- 27 unsworn declaration of inability to pay costs is filed by the inmate

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- 1 (Sec. 14.006, Civil Practice and Remedies Code) . . . the lesser
- 2 of:
- 3 (A) 10 percent of that month's deposit to the
- 4 inmate's trust account administered by the Texas Department of
- 5 Criminal Justice under Section 501.014, Government Code; or
- 6 (B) the total amount of court fees and costs that
- 7 remain unpaid;
- 8 (25) the following costs not otherwise charged to the
- 9 inmate under Section 14.006, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, if
- 10 the inmate has previously filed an action dismissed as malicious or
- 11 frivolous (Sec. 14.007, Civil Practice and Remedies Code):
- 12 (A) expenses of service of process;
- 13 (B) postage; and
- 14 (C) transportation, housing, or medical care
- 15 incurred in connection with the appearance of the inmate in the
- 16 court for any proceeding;
- 17 (26) the official court reporter's fee taxed as costs
- in civil actions in a statutory county court:
- 19 (A) in Bexar County Courts at Law:
- 20 (i) Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12
- 21 (Sec. 25.0172, Government Code) . . . taxed in the same manner as
- 22 the fee is taxed in district court; and
- 23 (ii) No. 2 (Sec. 25.0172, Government Code)
- 24 . . . \$3;
- 25 (B) in Galveston County (Sec. 25.0862,
- 26 Government Code) . . . taxed in the same manner as the fee is taxed
- 27 in civil cases in the district courts; and

- 1 (C) in Parker County (Sec. 25.1862, Government
- 2 Code) . . . taxed in the same manner as the fee is taxed in civil
- 3 cases in the district courts;
- 4 (27) a stenographer's fee as costs in each civil,
- 5 criminal, and probate case in which a record is made by the official
- 6 court reporter in a statutory county court in Nolan County (Sec.
- 7 25.1792, Government Code) . . . \$25;
- 8 (28) in Brazoria County, in matters of concurrent
- 9 jurisdiction with the district court, fees (Sec. 25.0222,
- 10 Government Code) . . . as prescribed by law for district judges
- 11 according to the nature of the matter;
- 12 (29) in Nueces County, in matters of concurrent
- 13 jurisdiction with the district court, with certain exceptions, fees
- 14 (Sec. 25.1802, Government Code) . . . equal to those in district
- 15 court cases;
- 16 (30) security deposit on filing, by any person other
- 17 than the personal representative of an estate, an application,
- 18 complaint, or opposition in relation to the estate, if required by
- 19 the clerk (Sec. 12, Texas Probate Code) . . . probable cost of the
- 20 proceeding;
- 21 (31) security deposit on filing, by any person other
- 22 than the guardian, attorney ad litem, or guardian ad litem, an
- 23 application, complaint, or opposition in relation to a guardianship
- 24 matter, if required by the clerk (Sec. 622, Texas Probate Code)
- 25 . . . probable cost of the guardianship proceeding;
- 26 (32) for a hearing or proceeding under the Texas
- 27 Mental Health Code (Subtitle C, Title 7, Health and Safety Code) as

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1 costs (Secs. 571.017 and 571.018, Health and Safety Code) . . .
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- 2 reasonable compensation to the following persons appointed under
- 3 the Texas Mental Health Code:
- 4 (A) attorneys;
- 5 (B) physicians;
- 6 (C) language interpreters;
- 7 (D) sign interpreters; and
- 8 (E) masters;
- 9 (33) for a hearing or proceeding under the Texas
- 10 Mental Health Code (Subtitle C, Title 7, Health and Safety Code) as
- 11 costs (Sec. 571.018, Health and Safety Code):
- 12 (A) attorney's fees;
- 13 (B) physician examination fees;
- 14 (C) expense of transportation to a mental health
- 15 facility or to a federal agency not to exceed \$50 if transporting
- 16 within the same county and not to exceed the reasonable cost of
- 17 transportation if transporting between counties;
- 18 (D) costs and salary supplements authorized
- under Section 574.031, Health and Safety Code; and
- 20 (E) prosecutors' fees authorized under Section
- 21 574.031, Health and Safety Code;
- 22 (34) expenses of transporting certain patients from
- 23 the county of treatment to a hearing in the county in which the
- proceedings originated (Sec. 574.008, Health and Safety Code) . . .
- 25 actual expenses unless certain arrangements are made to hold the
- hearing in the county in which the patient is receiving services;
- 27 (35) expenses for expert witness testimony for an

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- 1 indigent patient (Sec. 574.010, Health and Safety Code) . . . if
- 2 authorized by the court as reimbursement to the attorney ad litem,
- 3 court-approved expenses;
- 4 (36) fee for judge's services for holding a hearing on
- 5 an application for court-ordered mental health services (Sec.
- 6 574.031, Health and Safety Code) . . . as assessed by the judge, not
- 7 to exceed \$50;
- 8 (37) expenses to reimburse judge for holding a hearing
- 9 in a hospital or location other than the county courthouse (Sec.
- 10 574.031, Health and Safety Code) . . . reasonable and necessary
- 11 expenses as certified;
- 12 (38) fee for services of a prosecuting attorney,
- including costs incurred for preparation of documents related to a
- 14 hearing on an application for court-ordered mental health services
- 15 (Sec. 574.031, Health and Safety Code) . . . as assessed by the
- judge, not to exceed \$50; and
- 17 (39) a fee not otherwise listed in this section that is
- 18 required to be collected under Section 25.0008, Government Code
- 19 (Sec. 25.0008, Government Code), in a county other than Brazos,
- 20 Cameron, Ellis, Guadalupe, Harris, Henderson, Liberty, Moore,
- 21 Nolan, Panola, Parker, Starr, Victoria, and Williamson . . . as
- 22 prescribed by law relating to county judges' fees.
- SECTION 13. (a) The change in law made by Section 552.0037,
- 24 Government Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to a request
- 25 for disclosure made on or after the effective date of this Act. A
- 26 request for disclosure made before the effective date of this Act is
- 27 governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date

- of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.
- 2 (b) The changes in law made by Chapter 2206, Government
- 3 Code, and Chapter 21, Property Code, as amended by this Act, apply
- 4 only to a condemnation proceeding in which the petition is filed on
- 5 or after the effective date of this Act and to any property
- 6 condemned through the proceeding. A condemnation proceeding in
- 7 which the petition is filed before the effective date of this Act
- 8 and any property condemned through the proceeding is governed by
- 9 the law in effect immediately before that date, and that law is
- 10 continued in effect for that purpose.
- 11 SECTION 14. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of
- this section, this Act takes effect September 1, 2007.
- 13 (b) Sections 5 and 10 of this Act, amending Sections 21.023
- 14 and 21.103, Property Code, take effect on the date on which the
- 15 constitutional amendment proposed by the 80th Legislature, Regular
- 16 Session, 2007, allowing a governmental entity to sell property
- 17 acquired through eminent domain back to the previous owners at the
- 18 price the entity paid to acquire the property takes effect. If that
- 19 amendment is not approved by the voters, Sections 5 and 10 of this
- 20 Act have no effect.