

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 2617

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of municipal courts of record in the city of Laredo.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 30, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter WW to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER WW. LAREDO

Sec. 30.01821. APPLICATION. This subchapter applies to the city of Laredo.

Sec. 30.01822. JUDGE. (a) A municipal court of record is presided over by a municipal judge.

(b) A municipal judge is elected at large by the qualified voters of the city of Laredo for a term of four years. Except as provided by Subsection (d), a municipal judge may not serve more than two terms.

(c) A municipal judge must:

(1) be a licensed attorney in this state; and

(2) be a resident of the city of Laredo.

(d) A municipal judge may serve the remainder of an unexpired term to which the judge was elected or appointed and serve two additional terms.

(e) A municipal judge is entitled to the salary provided by ordinance of the governing body of the city.

Sec. 30.01823. CLERK; OTHER PERSONNEL. (a) The governing

1 body of the city by majority vote shall appoint a clerk of a
2 municipal court of record. The clerk must be nominated by the city
3 manager.

4 (b) The clerk serves at the pleasure of the governing body
5 of the city, and the employment status of the clerk is equivalent to
6 a department director.

7 (c) In addition to the powers and duties provided by Section
8 30.00009, the clerk may:

9 (1) administer oaths and affidavits;

10 (2) make certificates and affix the seal of the
11 municipal court of record to the certificates; and

12 (3) perform any act necessary to issue process and
13 conduct the business of the court.

14 (d) The governing body may provide other personnel,
15 including associate municipal judges.

16 (e) The governing body may authorize the appointment of
17 deputy clerks, who may act for and on behalf of the clerk, as
18 necessary for the proper operation of a municipal court of record.

19 (f) The clerk shall hire, direct, and remove the personnel
20 authorized for the clerk's office in the city's annual budget.

21 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.