

1-1 By: Guillen (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 2617  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 8, 2007;  
1-3 May 10, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Jurisprudence; May 17, 2007, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 17, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the creation of municipal courts of record in the city  
1-9 of Laredo.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:  
1-11 SECTION 1. Chapter 30, Government Code, is amended by  
1-12 adding Subchapter WW to read as follows:

1-13 SUBCHAPTER WW. LAREDO  
1-14 Sec. 30.01821. APPLICATION. This subchapter applies to the  
1-15 city of Laredo.

1-16 Sec. 30.01822. JUDGE. (a) A municipal court of record is  
1-17 presided over by a municipal judge.

1-18 (b) A municipal judge is elected at large by the qualified  
1-19 voters of the city of Laredo for a term of four years. Except as  
1-20 provided by Subsection (d), a municipal judge may not serve more  
1-21 than two terms.

1-22 (c) A municipal judge must:  
1-23 (1) be a licensed attorney in this state; and  
1-24 (2) be a resident of the city of Laredo.

1-25 (d) A municipal judge may serve the remainder of an  
1-26 unexpired term to which the judge was elected or appointed and serve  
1-27 two additional terms.

1-28 (e) A municipal judge is entitled to the salary provided by  
1-29 ordinance of the governing body of the city.

1-30 Sec. 30.01823. CLERK; OTHER PERSONNEL. (a) The governing  
1-31 body of the city by majority vote shall appoint a clerk of a  
1-32 municipal court of record. The clerk must be nominated by the city  
1-33 manager.

1-34 (b) The clerk serves at the pleasure of the governing body  
1-35 of the city, and the employment status of the clerk is equivalent to  
1-36 a department director.

1-37 (c) In addition to the powers and duties provided by Section  
1-38 30.00009, the clerk may:

1-39 (1) administer oaths and affidavits;  
1-40 (2) make certificates and affix the seal of the  
1-41 municipal court of record to the certificates; and

1-42 (3) perform any act necessary to issue process and  
1-43 conduct the business of the court.

1-44 (d) The governing body may provide other personnel,  
1-45 including associate municipal judges.

1-46 (e) The governing body may authorize the appointment of  
1-47 deputy clerks, who may act for and on behalf of the clerk, as  
1-48 necessary for the proper operation of a municipal court of record.

1-49 (f) The clerk shall hire, direct, and remove the personnel  
1-50 authorized for the clerk's office in the city's annual budget.

1-51 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
1-52 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
1-53 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
1-54 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
1-55 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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