

By: Eiland

H.B. No. 2766

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the location at which certain courts may conduct proceedings following certain disasters.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 24.033 to read as follows:

Sec. 24.033. LOCATION OF PROCEEDINGS FOLLOWING CERTAIN DISASTERS. (a) In this section, "first tier coastal county" and "second tier coastal county" have the meanings assigned by Section 2210.003, Insurance Code.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, if a natural or other major disaster occurs in a first tier coastal county or a second tier coastal county that precludes a district court from conducting its proceedings at the county seat of that county, the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region may designate an alternate location in the judicial district at which the court may conduct its proceedings.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 25, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 25.0019 to read as follows:

Sec. 25.0019. LOCATION OF PROCEEDINGS FOLLOWING CERTAIN DISASTERS. (a) In this section, "first tier coastal county" and "second tier coastal county" have the meanings assigned by Section 2210.003, Insurance Code.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, including a specific

1 provision in this chapter for a particular court or county that
2 requires a statutory county court to conduct its proceedings at the
3 county seat, if a natural or other major disaster occurs in a first
4 tier coastal county or a second tier coastal county that precludes a
5 statutory county court in that county from conducting its
6 proceedings at the county seat, the presiding judge of the
7 administrative judicial region may designate an alternate location
8 in the county at which the court may conduct its proceedings.

9 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 25, Government Code, is
10 amended by adding Section 25.0032 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 25.0032. LOCATION OF PROCEEDINGS FOLLOWING CERTAIN
12 DISASTERS. (a) In this section, "first tier coastal county" and
13 "second tier coastal county" have the meanings assigned by Section
14 2210.003, Insurance Code.

15 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, including a specific
16 provision in this chapter for a particular court or county that
17 requires a statutory probate court to conduct its proceedings at
18 the county seat, if a natural or other major disaster occurs in a
19 first tier coastal county or a second tier coastal county that
20 precludes a statutory probate court in that county from conducting
21 its proceedings at the county seat, the presiding judge of the
22 statutory probate courts may designate an alternate location in the
23 county at which the court may conduct its proceedings.

24 SECTION 4. Subchapter A, Chapter 26, Government Code, is
25 amended by adding Section 26.009 to read as follows:

26 Sec. 26.009. LOCATION OF PROCEEDINGS FOLLOWING CERTAIN
27 DISASTERS. (a) In this section, "first tier coastal county" and

1 "second tier coastal county" have the meanings assigned by Section
2 2210.003, Insurance Code.

3 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, including Section
4 26.002(c), if a natural or other major disaster occurs in a first
5 tier coastal county or a second tier coastal county that precludes
6 the county court from conducting its proceedings at the county
7 seat, the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region may
8 designate an alternate location in the county at which the court may
9 conduct its proceedings.

10 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.