

By: Chavez

H.B. No. 4008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of additional county criminal courts at law in El Paso County.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25.0731(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) El Paso County has the following statutory county courts:

- (1) County Court at Law No. 1 of El Paso County, Texas;
- (2) County Court at Law No. 2 of El Paso County, Texas;
- (3) County Court at Law No. 3 of El Paso County, Texas;
- (4) County Court at Law No. 4 of El Paso County, Texas;
- (5) County Court at Law No. 5 of El Paso County, Texas;
- (6) County Court at Law No. 6 of El Paso County, Texas;
- (7) County Court at Law No. 7 of El Paso County, Texas;
- (8) County Criminal Court at Law No. 1 of El Paso County, Texas; ~~and~~
- (9) County Criminal Court at Law No. 2 of El Paso County, Texas;
- (10) County Criminal Court at Law No. 3 of El Paso County, Texas; and
- (11) County Criminal Court at Law No. 4 of El Paso County, Texas.

SECTION 2. Sections 25.0732(y) and (z), Government Code,

1 are amended to read as follows:

2 (y) The El Paso Council of Judges shall order the transfer
3 of criminal misdemeanor cases to the county criminal courts at law
4 [~~County Criminal Courts No. 1 and No. 2~~] from time to time to
5 equalize the criminal misdemeanor dockets of the statutory county
6 courts for the efficient operation of the court system and the
7 effective administration of justice. In determining the court to
8 which a case is transferred, the council shall give preference to a
9 county criminal court at law that is required to give preference to
10 certain cases under Subsection (z).

11 (z) The County Criminal Courts No. 1, ~~and~~ No. 2, No. 3, and
12 No. 4 have the criminal jurisdiction provided by this section and
13 other law for statutory county courts in El Paso County and
14 appellate jurisdiction in appeals of criminal cases from justice
15 courts and municipal courts in the county as provided by Article
16 45.042, Code of Criminal Procedure. The County Criminal Court No. 4
17 shall give preference to cases prosecuted under:

18 (1) Section 22.01, Penal Code, in which the victim is a
19 person whose relationship to or association with the defendant is
20 described under Chapter 71, Family Code; and

21 (2) Section 25.07, Penal Code.

22 SECTION 3. The County Criminal Court at Law No. 3 of El Paso
23 County, Texas, and the County Criminal Court at Law No. 4 of El Paso
24 County, Texas, are created September 1, 2007.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.