

1-1 By: Williams S.B. No. 325
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 25, 2007; February 14, 2007,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Jurisprudence;
1-4 March 5, 2007, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; March 5, 2007,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 325 By: Wentworth

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the creation of an appellate judicial system for the
1-11 Ninth Court of Appeals District.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 22, Government Code, is
1-14 amended by adding Section 22.2101 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 22.2101. APPELLATE JUDICIAL SYSTEM. (a) The
1-16 commissioners court of each county in the Ninth Court of Appeals
1-17 District, by order entered in its minutes, shall establish an
1-18 appellate judicial system to:

1-19 (1) assist the court of appeals for the county in the
1-20 processing of appeals filed with the court of appeals from the
1-21 county courts, county courts at law, probate courts, and district
1-22 courts;

1-23 (2) defray costs and expenses incurred by the county
1-24 under Section 22.210; and

1-25 (3) reimburse Jefferson County for supplemental
1-26 salaries and annual benefits paid to the justices.

1-27 (b) To fund the system, the commissioners court shall set a
1-28 court fee of \$5 for each civil suit filed in county court, county
1-29 court at law, probate court, or district court in the county.

1-30 (c) The court costs fee does not apply to a suit filed by the
1-31 county or to a suit for delinquent taxes.

1-32 (d) The court costs fee shall be taxed, collected, and paid
1-33 as other court costs in a suit. The clerk of the court shall collect
1-34 the court costs fee set under this section and pay it to the county
1-35 officer who performs the county treasurer's functions. That
1-36 officer shall deposit the fee in a separate appellate judicial
1-37 system fund. The commissioners court shall administer the fund to
1-38 establish and maintain a fund system to assist the court of appeals
1-39 in the district. The fund may not be used for any other purpose.

1-40 (e) The commissioners court shall monthly order the funds
1-41 collected under this section to be forwarded to the court of appeals
1-42 for expenditures by the court of appeals for its judicial system.

1-43 (f) The commissioners court shall vest management of the
1-44 system in the chief justice of the court of appeals.

1-45 (g) The chief justice shall reimburse Jefferson County from
1-46 the fund for supplemental salaries and annual benefits paid to the
1-47 justices.

1-48 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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