

Amend **CSSB 497** by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTION to the bill and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS accordingly:

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Subchapter A, Chapter 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 24.023 to read as follows:

Sec. 24.023. DISTRICT COURT AGREEMENT WITH CERTAIN CONSTITUTIONAL COUNTY COURTS. (a) A district court judge and a county court judge may enter into a written agreement granting the county court authority to hear the following matters, provided that the district court has jurisdiction of the matter:

- (1) guilty pleas in felony cases;
- (2) default judgments;
- (3) uncontested civil cases in which a final judgment will be entered;
- (4) uncontested family law cases in which a final judgment will be entered; and
- (5) civil and family law cases in which an agreed final judgment will be entered.

(b) Subsection (a) applies only to a county:

- (1) that has two or more district courts each of which is composed of more than one county;
- (2) that does not have a county court at law; and
- (3) in which the county court retains original misdemeanor jurisdiction, and the county court judge is granted authority to consider those cases under the constitution or general law.

(c) A county court judge who enters into an agreement under Subsection (a) must be an attorney who is licensed to practice law in this state and who meets the qualifications for holding the office of district court judge.

(d) An agreement between a district court judge and a county court judge under this section may provide that final judgments must be approved by the district court judge.

(e) A county court judge has the same judicial immunity as the district court judge when presiding over cases as authorized by this section.

(f) All pleadings, documents, records, and other papers

remain under the control of the district clerk. The district clerk  
may establish a separate docket for the cases considered by the  
county court judge.