

By: Alonzo

H.B. No. 250

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the abolition of certain district courts, the creation
3 of additional district courts, and the election of district court
4 judges in certain counties.

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

6 SECTION 1. (a) For district court elections in the counties
7 named in this Act in 2012 and thereafter, judges shall be elected
8 from election subdistricts as assigned by the legislature.

9 (b) The legislature finds that this Act is consistent with
10 all provisions of the Texas Constitution.

11 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 24, Government Code, is
12 amended by adding Section 24.0015 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 24.0015. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT OF JUDGES. A district
14 judge elected by place from an area that is less than the entire
15 judicial district may, but need not, be a resident of the area from
16 which elected.

17 SECTION 3. Effective January 1, 2013, Subchapter C, Chapter
18 24, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 24.587, 24.588,
19 24.590, 24.591, 24.594, 24.595, 24.596, and 24.597 to read as
20 follows:

21 Sec. 24.587. 443RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT (HARRIS COUNTY). (a)
22 The 443rd Judicial District is composed of Harris County.

23 (b) The district has 30 judges who are elected by place as
24 provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section, a

1 commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the
2 precinct on January 1, 2009.

3 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
4 places:

5 (1) places 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 shall be elected
6 by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 1;

7 (2) places 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 shall be
8 elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2;

9 (3) places 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 shall be
10 elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 3;
11 and

12 (4) places 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 shall be
13 elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 4.

14 Sec. 24.588. 444TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (DALLAS COUNTY). (a)
15 The 444th Judicial District is composed of Dallas County.

16 (b) The district has 20 judges who are elected by place as
17 provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section, a
18 commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the
19 precinct on January 1, 2009.

20 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
21 places:

22 (1) places 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 shall be elected by voters
23 residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 1;

24 (2) places 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 shall be elected by
25 voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2;

26 (3) places 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 shall be elected by
27 voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 3; and

1 (4) places 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 shall be elected by
2 voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 4.

3 Sec. 24.590. 446TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (TARRANT COUNTY). (a)
4 The 446th Judicial District is composed of Tarrant County.

5 (b) The district has 13 judges who are elected by place as
6 provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section, a
7 commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the
8 precinct on January 1, 2009.

9 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
10 places:

11 (1) places 1, 2, 3, and 4 shall be elected by voters
12 residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 1;

13 (2) places 5, 6, and 7 shall be elected by voters
14 residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2;

15 (3) places 8, 9, and 10 shall be elected by voters
16 residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 3; and

17 (4) places 11, 12, and 13 shall be elected by voters
18 residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 4.

19 Sec. 24.591. 447TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (BEXAR COUNTY). (a)
20 The 447th Judicial District is composed of Bexar County.

21 (b) The district has 12 judges who are elected by place as
22 provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section, a
23 commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the
24 precinct on January 1, 2009.

25 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
26 places:

27 (1) places 1, 2, and 3 shall be elected by voters

1 residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 1;

2 (2) places 4, 5 and 6 shall be elected by voters
3 residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2;

4 (3) places 7, 8, and 9 shall be elected by voters
5 residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 3; and

6 (4) places 10, 11, and 12 shall be elected by voters
7 residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 4.

8 Sec. 24.594. 450TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (JEFFERSON COUNTY).

9 (a) The 450th Judicial District is composed of Jefferson County.

10 (b) The district has five judges who are elected by place as
11 provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section, a
12 commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the
13 precinct on January 1, 2009.

14 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
15 places:

16 (1) places 1 and 2 shall be elected by voters residing
17 in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 1;

18 (2) place 3 shall be elected by voters residing in
19 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2;

20 (3) place 4 shall be elected by voters residing in
21 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 3; and

22 (4) place 5 shall be elected by voters residing in
23 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 4.

24 Sec. 24.595. 451ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT (LUBBOCK COUNTY). (a)
25 The 451st Judicial District is composed of Lubbock County.

26 (b) The district has three judges who are elected by place
27 as provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section, a

1 commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the
2 precinct on January 1, 2009.

3 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
4 places:

5 (1) place 1 shall be elected by voters residing in
6 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 1;

7 (2) place 2 shall be elected by voters residing in
8 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2; and

9 (3) place 3 shall be elected by voters residing in
10 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 3.

11 Sec. 24.596. 452ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT (ECTOR COUNTY). (a)
12 The 452nd Judicial District is composed of Ector County.

13 (b) The district has two judges who are elected by place as
14 provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section, a
15 commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the
16 precinct on January 1, 2009.

17 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
18 places:

19 (1) place 1 shall be elected by voters residing in
20 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 1; and

21 (2) place 2 shall be elected by voters residing in
22 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2.

23 Sec. 24.597. 453RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT (MIDLAND COUNTY). (a)
24 The 453rd Judicial District is composed of Midland County.

25 (b) The district has two judges who are elected by place as
26 provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section, a
27 commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the

1 precinct on January 1, 2009.

2 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
3 places:

4 (1) place 1 shall be elected by voters residing in
5 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 1; and

6 (2) place 2 shall be elected by voters residing in
7 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2.

8 SECTION 4. Effective January 1, 2015, Sections 24.587(b)
9 and (c), Government Code, as added by Section 3 of this Act, are
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (b) The district has 59 [~~30~~] judges who are elected by place
12 as provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section, a
13 commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the
14 precinct on January 1, 2009.

15 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
16 places:

17 (1) places 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, [~~and~~] 8, 31, 32, 33, 34,
18 35, 36, and 37 shall be elected by voters residing in Commissioners
19 Court Precinct No. 1;

20 (2) places 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, [~~and~~] 16, 38, 39,
21 40, 41, 42, 43, and 44 shall be elected by voters residing in
22 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2;

23 (3) places 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, [~~and~~] 23, 45, 46,
24 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, and 52 shall be elected by voters residing in
25 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 3; and

26 (4) places 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, [~~and~~] 30, 53, 54,
27 55, 56, 57, 58, and 59 shall be elected by voters residing in

1 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 4.

2 SECTION 5. Effective January 1, 2015, Sections 24.588(b)
3 and (c), Government Code, as added by Section 3 of this Act, are
4 amended to read as follows:

5 (b) The district has 39 [~~20~~] judges who are elected by place
6 as provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section, a
7 commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the
8 precinct on January 1, 2009.

9 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
10 places:

11 (1) places 1, 2, 3, 4, [~~and~~] 5, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25
12 shall be elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct
13 No. 1;

14 (2) places 6, 7, 8, 9, [~~and~~] 10, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30
15 shall be elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct
16 No. 2;

17 (3) places 11, 12, 13, 14, [~~and~~] 15, 31, 32, 33, 34,
18 and 35 shall be elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court
19 Precinct No. 3; and

20 (4) places 16, 17, 18, 19, [~~and~~] 20, 36, 37, 38, and 39
21 shall be elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct
22 No. 4.

23 SECTION 6. Effective January 1, 2015, Sections 24.590(b)
24 and (c), Government Code, as added by Section 3 of this Act, are
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (b) The district has 26 [~~13~~] judges who are elected by place
27 as provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section, a

1 commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the
2 precinct on January 1, 2009.

3 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
4 places:

5 (1) places 1, 2, 3, [~~and~~] 4, 14, 15, and 16 shall be
6 elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 1;

7 (2) places 5, 6, [~~and~~] 7, 17, 18, 19, and 20 shall be
8 elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2;

9 (3) places 8, 9, [~~and~~] 10, 21, 22, and 23 shall be
10 elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 3;
11 and

12 (4) places 11, 12, [~~and~~] 13, 24, 25, and 26 shall be
13 elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 4.

14 SECTION 7. Effective January 1, 2015, Sections 24.591(b)
15 and (c), Government Code, as added by Section 3 of this Act, are
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (b) The district has 24 [~~12~~] judges who are elected by place
18 as provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section, a
19 commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the
20 precinct on January 1, 2009.

21 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
22 places:

23 (1) places 1, 2, [~~and~~] 3, 13, 14, and 15 shall be
24 elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 1;

25 (2) places 4, 5, [~~and~~] 6, 16, 17, and 18 shall be
26 elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2;

27 (3) places 7, 8, [~~and~~] 9, 19, 20, and 21 shall be

1 elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 3;
2 and

3 (4) places 10, 11, [~~and~~] 12, 22, 23, and 24 shall be
4 elected by voters residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 4.

5 SECTION 8. Effective January 1, 2015, Sections 24.594(b)
6 and (c), Government Code, as added by Section 3 of this Act, are
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (b) The district has eight [~~five~~] judges who are elected by
9 place as provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section,
10 a commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the
11 precinct on January 1, 2009.

12 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
13 places:

14 (1) places 1 and 2 shall be elected by voters residing
15 in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 1;

16 (2) places [~~place~~] 3 and 6 shall be elected by voters
17 residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2;

18 (3) places [~~place~~] 4 and 7 shall be elected by voters
19 residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 3; and

20 (4) places [~~place~~] 5 and 8 shall be elected by voters
21 residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 4.

22 SECTION 9. Effective January 1, 2015, Sections 24.595(b)
23 and (c), Government Code, as added by Section 3 of this Act, are
24 amended to read as follows:

25 (b) The district has five [~~three~~] judges who are elected by
26 place as provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section,
27 a commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the

1 precinct on January 1, 2009.

2 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
3 places:

4 (1) places [~~place~~] 1 and 5 shall be elected by voters
5 residing in Commissioners Court Precinct No. 1;

6 (2) place 2 shall be elected by voters residing in
7 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2; [~~and~~]

8 (3) place 3 shall be elected by voters residing in
9 Lubbock County Commissioners Court Precinct No. 3; and

10 (4) place 4 shall be elected by voters residing in
11 Lubbock County Commissioners Court Precinct No. 4.

12 SECTION 10. Effective January 1, 2015, Sections 24.596(b)
13 and (c), Government Code, as added by Section 3 of this Act, are
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (b) The district has four [~~two~~] judges who are elected by
16 place as provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section,
17 a commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the
18 precinct on January 1, 2009.

19 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
20 places:

21 (1) place 1 shall be elected by voters residing in
22 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 1; [~~and~~]

23 (2) place 2 shall be elected by voters residing in
24 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2;

25 (3) place 3 shall be elected by voters residing in
26 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 3; and

27 (4) place 4 shall be elected by voters residing in

1 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 4.

2 SECTION 11. Effective January 1, 2015, Sections 24.597(b)
3 and (c), Government Code, as added by Section 3 of this Act, are
4 amended to read as follows:

5 (b) The district has four [~~two~~] judges who are elected by
6 place as provided by Subsection (c). For purposes of this section,
7 a commissioners court precinct is composed of the area in the
8 precinct on January 1, 2009.

9 (c) One judge shall be elected for each of the following
10 places:

11 (1) place 1 shall be elected by voters residing in
12 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 1; [~~and~~]

13 (2) place 2 shall be elected by voters residing in
14 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 2;

15 (3) place 3 shall be elected by voters residing in
16 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 3; and

17 (4) place 4 shall be elected by voters residing in
18 Commissioners Court Precinct No. 4.

19 SECTION 12. (a) Effective January 1, 2013, the following
20 sections of the Government Code are repealed:

21 (1) 24.112, 24.157, 24.163, 24.182, 24.215, 24.227,
22 24.229, 24.231, 24.235, 24.250, 24.251, 24.256, 24.261, 24.262,
23 24.267, 24.269, 24.270, 24.271, 24.272, 24.273, 24.362, 24.363,
24 24.364, 24.365, 24.368, 24.369, 24.387, 24.388, 24.394, and 24.406;

25 (2) 24.115, 24.146, 24.170, 24.197, 24.203, 24.218,
26 24.236, 24.257, 24.259, 24.370, 24.371, 24.372, 24.373, 24.374,
27 24.382, 24.383, 24.901, 24.902, 24.903, and 24.904;

1 (3) 24.118, 24.150, 24.169, 24.198, 24.252, 24.352,
2 24.392, 24.408, 24.410, 24.413, 24.474, 24.910, and 24.911;

3 (4) 24.139, 24.147, 24.159, 24.175, 24.233, 24.245,
4 24.249, 24.263, 24.268, 24.274, 24.366, and 24.402;

5 (5) 24.160, 24.162, 24.238, 24.359, and 24.920;

6 (6) 24.201, 24.239, and 24.242;

7 (7) 24.172 and 24.258; and

8 (8) 24.243 and 24.415.

9 (b) A judicial district created by a section of the
10 Government Code that is repealed by Subsection (a) of this section
11 is abolished January 1, 2013.

12 SECTION 13. (a) Effective January 1, 2015, the following
13 sections of the Government Code are repealed:

14 (1) 24.407, 24.409, 24.411, 24.422, 24.423, 24.424,
15 24.425, 24.434, 24.439, 24.440, 24.446, 24.447, 24.457, 24.458,
16 24.472, 24.479, 24.480, 24.483, 24.484, 24.485, 24.497, 24.616,
17 24.617, 24.618, 24.619, 24.620, 24.621, 24.622, and 24.623;

18 (2) 24.431, 24.432, 24.433, 24.442, 24.459, 24.460,
19 24.468, 24.469, 24.475, 24.508, 24.609, 24.610, 24.611, 24.612,
20 24.613, 24.638, 24.905, 24.906, and 24.907;

21 (3) 24.488, 24.494, 24.498, 24.516, 24.517, 24.541,
22 24.630, 24.631, 24.632, 24.633, 24.639, 24.912, and 24.913;

23 (4) 24.403, 24.404, 24.405, 24.462, 24.465, 24.466,
24 24.467, 24.524, 24.531, 24.544, 24.552, and 24.554;

25 (5) 24.429, 24.456, and 24.625;

26 (6) 24.414 and 24.509;

27 (7) 24.421 and 24.504; and

1 (8) 24.530 and 24.626.

2 (b) A judicial district created by a section of the
3 Government Code that is repealed by Subsection (a) of this section
4 is abolished January 1, 2015.

5 SECTION 14. (a) The judicial offices created by Section 3
6 of this Act exist for purposes of the primary and general elections
7 for state and county officers in 2012.

8 (b) Not later than December 15, 2012, the judge of a
9 district court that is abolished by Section 12 of this Act shall
10 transfer all cases pending in the court to another district court in
11 the county. The court to which the cases are transferred may not be
12 a court that is abolished by Section 12 of this Act.

13 (c) The judicial offices created by Sections 4 through 11 of
14 this Act exist for purposes of the primary and general elections for
15 state and county officers in 2014.

16 (d) Not later than December 15, 2014, the judge of a
17 district court that is abolished by Section 13 of this Act shall
18 transfer all cases pending in the court to another district court in
19 the county that is created by Section 3 of this Act.

20 (e) When a case is transferred from one court to another as
21 provided by Subsection (b) or (d) of this section, all processes,
22 writs, bonds, recognizances, or other obligations issued from the
23 transferring court are returnable to the court to which the case is
24 transferred as if originally issued by that court. The obligees in
25 all bonds and recognizances taken in and for a court from which a
26 case is transferred, and all witnesses summoned to appear in a court
27 from which a case is transferred, are required to appear before the

1 court to which a case is transferred as if originally required to
2 appear before the court to which the transfer is made.

3 SECTION 15. Except as provided by Sections 3 through 11,
4 12(a), and 13(a) of this Act, this Act takes effect September 1,
5 2009.