

1-1 By: Cook (Senate Sponsor - Averitt) H.B. No. 1682
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 23, 2009;
1-3 May 1, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Jurisprudence; May 14, 2009, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 14, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the creation of a county court at law in Navarro County.

1-9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-10 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Government Code, is
1-11 amended by adding Sections 25.1771 and 25.1772 to read as follows:

1-12 Sec. 25.1771. NAVARRO COUNTY. Navarro County has one
1-13 statutory county court, the County Court at Law of Navarro County.

1-14 Sec. 25.1772. NAVARRO COUNTY COURT AT LAW PROVISIONS. (a)
1-15 In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and
1-16 other law, and except as limited by Subsection (b), a county court
1-17 at law in Navarro County has concurrent jurisdiction with the
1-18 district court in:

1-19 (1) felony cases to:

1-20 (A) conduct arraignments;

1-21 (B) conduct pretrial hearings;

1-22 (C) accept guilty pleas; and

1-23 (D) conduct jury trials on assignment of a
1-24 district judge presiding in Navarro County and acceptance of the
1-25 assignment by the judge of the county court at law;

1-26 (2) Class A and Class B misdemeanor cases;

1-27 (3) family law matters;

1-28 (4) juvenile matters;

1-29 (5) probate matters; and

1-30 (6) appeals from the justice and municipal courts.

1-31 (b) A county court at law does not have general supervisory
1-32 control or appellate review of the commissioners court or
1-33 jurisdiction of:

1-34 (1) suits on behalf of this state to recover penalties
1-35 or escheated property;

1-36 (2) felony cases involving capital murder;

1-37 (3) misdemeanors involving official misconduct; or

1-38 (4) contested elections.

1-39 (c) The judge of a county court at law must have the same
1-40 qualifications as those required by law for a district judge.

1-41 (d) The judge of a county court at law shall be paid a total
1-42 annual salary set by the commissioners court at an amount that is
1-43 not less than \$1,000 less than the total annual salary received by a
1-44 district judge in the county. A district judge's or statutory
1-45 county court judge's total annual salary does not include
1-46 contributions and supplements paid by a county.

1-47 (e) The judge of a county court at law may not engage in the
1-48 private practice of law.

1-49 (f) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at
1-50 law in matters of concurrent jurisdiction with the district court,
1-51 and the county clerk shall serve as clerk of a county court at law in
1-52 all other matters. Each clerk shall establish a separate docket for
1-53 a county court at law.

1-54 (g) The official court reporter of a county court at law is
1-55 entitled to receive a salary set by the judge of the county court at
1-56 law with the approval of the commissioners court.

1-57 (h) Jurors summoned for a county court at law or a district
1-58 court in the county may by order of the judge of the court to which
1-59 they are summoned be transferred to another court for service and
1-60 may be used as if summoned for the court to which they are
1-61 transferred.

1-62 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding Section 25.1771, Government
1-63 Code, as added by this Act, the County Court at Law of Navarro
1-64 County is created January 1, 2011, or on an earlier date determined

2-1 by the Commissioners Court of Navarro County by an order entered in
2-2 its minutes.

2-3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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