

By: Chavez

H.B. No. 4529

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to court reporter service fees in certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.601, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the clerk of each court that has an official court reporter and that serves a county with a population of 600,000 or more and is located on the international border shall collect a court reporter service fee of \$30 as a court cost in each civil case filed with the clerk to maintain a court reporter who is available for assignment in the court.

SECTION 2. Section 103.0211, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 103.0211. ADDITIONAL FEES AND COSTS IN CRIMINAL OR CIVIL CASES: GOVERNMENT CODE. An accused or defendant, or a party to a civil suit, as applicable, shall pay the following fees and costs under the Government Code if ordered by the court or otherwise required:

(1) a court reporter fee when testimony is taken:

(A) in a criminal court in Dallas County (Sec. 25.0593, Government Code) . . . \$3;

(B) in a county criminal court of appeals in Dallas County (Sec. 25.0594, Government Code) . . . \$3;

1 (C) in a county court at law in McLennan County
2 (Sec. 25.1572, Government Code) . . . \$3; and

3 (D) in a county criminal court in Tarrant County
4 (Sec. 25.2223, Government Code) . . . \$3;

5 (2) a court reporter service fee if the courts have
6 official court reporters (Sec. 51.601, Government Code) . . . \$15
7 or, in specified counties, \$30;

8 (3) a speedy trial filing fee in El Paso County (Sec.
9 54.745, Government Code) . . . \$100;

10 (4) costs for use of magistrate in Brazos County (Sec.
11 54.1116, Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$50;

12 (5) the costs of a criminal magistrate if the court
13 determines that the nonprevailing party is able to defray the
14 costs:

15 (A) in Bexar County (Sec. 54.913, Government
16 Code) . . . magistrate's fees;

17 (B) in Dallas County (Sec. 54.313, Government
18 Code) . . . magistrate's fees;

19 (C) in Lubbock County (Sec. 54.883, Government
20 Code) . . . magistrate's fees;

21 (D) in Tarrant County (Sec. 54.663, Government
22 Code) . . . magistrate's fees;

23 (E) in Travis County (Sec. 54.983, Government
24 Code) . . . magistrate's fees; and

25 (F) in Williamson County (Sec. 54.958,
26 Government Code) . . . expense of the magistrate;

27 (6) an administrative fee for participation in certain

1 community supervision programs (Sec. 76.015, Government Code) . . .
2 not less than \$25 and not more than \$40 per month; and

3 (7) fee paid on filing a petition for an order of
4 nondisclosure of criminal history record information in certain
5 cases (Sec. 411.081, Government Code) . . . \$28.

6 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
7 to a case filed with the clerk of a court that has an official court
8 reporter on or after the effective date of this Act. A case filed
9 with the clerk of the court before the effective date of this Act is
10 governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective
11 date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that
12 purpose.

13 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.