1-1 By: Homer (Senate Sponsor - Eltife)   H.B. No. 4685
1-2   (In the Senate - Received from the House May 18, 2009;
1-3 May 19, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Jurisprudence; May 23, 2009, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 23, 2009, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to the County Court of Titus County.
1-9   BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
1-10   SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 26, Government Code, is
1-11 amended by adding Section 26.325 to read as follows:
1-12   Sec. 26.325. TITUS COUNTY. (a) The County Court of Titus
1-13 County has:
1-14   (1) the general jurisdiction of a probate court;
1-15   (2) juvenile jurisdiction as provided by Section
1-16 26.042(b); and
1-17   (3) original and appellate jurisdiction in all matters
1-18 over which county courts have jurisdiction under the constitution
1-19 and general laws of this state.
1-20   (b) The terms of the county court continue until the court
1-21 has disposed of its business. The commissioners court may change
1-22 the court terms under Section 26.002.
1-23   (c) A judge of a district court in Titus County and the judge
1-24 of the county court may enter into a written agreement granting the
1-25 county court jurisdiction to hear:
1-26   (1) guilty pleas in felony cases;
1-27   (2) default judgments;
1-28   (3) uncontested civil and family law cases in which a
1-29 final judgment will be entered; and
1-30   (4) civil and family law cases in which an agreed final
1-31 judgment will be entered.
1-32   (d) The county court judge may not enter into an agreement
1-33 under Subsection (c) unless:
1-34   (1) the county is included in at least two judicial
1-35 districts that contain more than one county;
1-36   (2) the county does not have a county court at law;
1-37   (3) the county court retains original misdemeanor
1-38 jurisdiction; and
1-39   (4) the county judge is an attorney who:
1-40   (A) is licensed to practice law in this state;
1-41 and
1-42   (B) meets the qualifications for holding the
1-43 office of district court judge.
1-44   (e) An agreement under Subsection (c) may provide that a
1-45 final judgment be approved by the district court judge.
1-46   (f) The county judge has the same judicial immunity as the
1-47 district court judge when presiding over cases authorized under
1-48 Subsection (c).
1-49   (g) All pleadings, documents, records, and other papers in
1-50 district court cases heard by a county court judge remain under the
1-51 control of the district clerk. The district clerk may establish a
1-52 separate docket for the cases considered by the county court judge.
1-53   SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-54 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-55 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-56 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-57 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

1-58   * * * * *