

AN ACT

relating to the creation of an appellate judicial system for the Twelfth Court of Appeals District.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 22, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 22.2131 to read as follows:

Sec. 22.2131. APPELLATE JUDICIAL SYSTEM. (a) The commissioners court of each county in the Twelfth Court of Appeals District, by order entered in its minutes, shall establish an appellate judicial system to assist the court of appeals for the county in the processing of appeals filed with the court of appeals from the county courts, statutory county courts, probate courts, and district courts.

(b) To fund the system, the commissioners court shall set a court costs fee of \$5 for each civil suit filed in county court, statutory county court, probate court, or district court in the county.

(c) The court costs fee does not apply to a suit filed by any governmental entity or to a suit for delinquent taxes.

(d) The court costs fee shall be taxed, collected, and paid as other court costs in a suit. The clerk of the court shall collect the court costs fee set under this section and pay it to the county officer who performs the county treasurer's functions. That officer shall deposit the fee in a separate appellate judicial

1 system fund. The commissioners court shall administer the fund to
2 establish and maintain a fund system to assist the Twelfth Court of
3 Appeals District and any other court of appeals district that has an
4 appellate judicial system in the county. The fund may not be used
5 for any other purpose.

6 (e) The commissioners court shall monthly order the funds
7 collected under this section to be forwarded in equal amounts to
8 each clerk of a court of appeals that has an appellate judicial
9 system in the county for expenditures by the court of appeals for
10 its judicial system.

11 (f) The commissioners court shall vest management of the
12 system in the chief justice of the court of appeals.

13 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 101, Government Code, is
14 amended by adding Section 101.06114 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 101.06114. ADDITIONAL DISTRICT COURT FEES: GOVERNMENT
16 CODE. The clerk of a district court in the Twelfth Court of Appeals
17 District shall collect an appellate judicial system filing fee of
18 \$5 under Section 22.2131, Government Code.

19 SECTION 3. Subchapter E, Chapter 101, Government Code, is
20 amended by adding Section 101.08113 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 101.08113. ADDITIONAL STATUTORY COUNTY COURT FEES:
22 GOVERNMENT CODE. The clerk of a statutory county court in the
23 Twelfth Court of Appeals District shall collect an appellate
24 judicial system filing fee of \$5 under Section 22.2131, Government
25 Code.

26 SECTION 4. Subchapter F, Chapter 101, Government Code, is
27 amended by adding Section 101.10113 to read as follows:

1 Sec. 101.10113. ADDITIONAL STATUTORY PROBATE COURT FEES:
2 GOVERNMENT CODE. The clerk of a statutory probate court in the
3 Twelfth Court of Appeals District shall collect an appellate
4 judicial system filing fee of \$5 under Section 22.2131, Government
5 Code.

6 SECTION 5. Subchapter G, Chapter 101, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 101.12122 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 101.12122. ADDITIONAL COUNTY COURT FEES: GOVERNMENT
9 CODE. The clerk of a county court in a county in the Twelfth Court
10 of Appeals District shall collect an appellate judicial system
11 filing fee of \$5 under Section 22.2131, Government Code.

12 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 659 passed the Senate on April 2, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 659 passed the House on May 5, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor