

By: Uresti, Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1740

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of three additional county courts at law in Bexar County.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (b), Section 25.0171, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Bexar County has the following county courts at law:

- (1) County Court at Law No. 1 of Bexar County, Texas;
- (2) County Court at Law No. 2 of Bexar County, Texas;
- (3) County Court at Law No. 3 of Bexar County, Texas;
- (4) County Court at Law No. 4 of Bexar County, Texas;
- (5) County Court at Law No. 5 of Bexar County, Texas;
- (6) County Court at Law No. 6 of Bexar County, Texas;
- (7) County Court at Law No. 7 of Bexar County, Texas;
- (8) County Court at Law No. 8 of Bexar County, Texas;
- (9) County Court at Law No. 9 of Bexar County, Texas;
- (10) County Court at Law No. 10 of Bexar County, Texas;
- (11) County Court at Law No. 11 of Bexar County, Texas;

~~and~~

- (12) County Court at Law No. 12 of Bexar County, Texas;
- (13) County Court at Law No. 13 of Bexar County, Texas;
- (14) County Court at Law No. 14 of Bexar County, Texas;

and

- (15) County Court at Law No. 15 of Bexar County, Texas.

1 SECTION 2. Section 25.0172, Government Code, is amended by
2 adding Subsection (c-1) and amending Subsections (d), (l), (n),
3 (o), (u), and (v) to read as follows:

4 (c-1) The County Court at Law No. 13 of Bexar County, Texas,
5 shall give preference to cases prosecuted under:

6 (1) Section 22.01, Penal Code, in which the victim is a
7 person whose relationship to or association with the defendant is
8 described by Chapter 71, Family Code; and

9 (2) Section 25.07, Penal Code.

10 (d) The County Courts at Law Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,
11 ~~and~~ 12, 13, 14, and 15 have six terms of court beginning on the
12 first Mondays in January, March, May, July, September, and
13 November. The County Court at Law No. 2 has six terms of court
14 beginning on the first Mondays in February, April, June, August,
15 October, and December.

16 (1) If the judge of the County Court at Law No. 4, 6, 7, 8, 9,
17 10, 11, ~~or~~ 12, 13, 14, or 15 is absent, disabled, or disqualified
18 from presiding, a special judge may be appointed or elected in the
19 manner provided by law for the appointment or election of a special
20 county judge. A special judge must take the oath of office required
21 by law for the regular judge. A special judge has the power and
22 jurisdiction of the court and of the regular judge for whom the
23 special judge is sitting and may sign orders, judgments, decrees,
24 and other process of any kind as "Judge Presiding." A special judge
25 is entitled to receive for services performed the same amount of
26 compensation as the regular judge, to be paid out of county funds.
27 The compensation paid a special judge may not be deducted from the

1 salary of the regular judge.

2 (n) The criminal district attorney shall attend the County
3 Court at Law No. 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, [~~or~~] 12, 13, 14, or 15 as
4 required by the judge. The criminal district attorney serves the
5 county courts at law as provided by Section 25.0010(b).

6 (o) The judge of the County Court at Law No. 4 or 6 may
7 appoint a court coordinator or administrative assistant for the
8 court. The judge of the County Court at Law No. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,
9 [~~or~~] 12, 13, 14, or 15 may, with the approval of the commissioners
10 court, appoint a court coordinator or administrative assistant for
11 the court. A court coordinator or administrative assistant
12 performs the duties prescribed by the judge and cooperates with the
13 administrative judges and state agencies for the uniform and
14 efficient operation of the courts and the administration of
15 justice. The court coordinator or administrative assistant is
16 entitled to be paid from county funds the compensation, fees, and
17 allowances that are set by the commissioners court or as otherwise
18 provided by law. These provisions are in addition to the provisions
19 in Subchapter F, Chapter 75.

20 (u) The official court reporter of a county court at law is
21 entitled to receive an annual salary set by the judge and approved
22 by the commissioners court at an amount not less than \$35,256. The
23 official court reporter's fee shall be taxed as costs in civil
24 actions in County Courts at Law Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,
25 [~~and~~] 12, 13, 14, and 15 in the same manner as that fee is taxed in
26 district court. In County Court at Law No. 2, the clerk collects
27 the official court reporters' fee of \$3 and pays it into the county

1 treasury in the same manner as district clerks are required to
2 collect and pay costs.

3 (v) Section 25.0006(a) does not apply to County Courts at
4 Law Nos. 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, [~~and~~] 12, 13, 14, and 15 of Bexar
5 County. Section 25.0006(b) does not apply to County Courts at Law
6 Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, [~~and~~] 12, 13, 14, and 15 of Bexar
7 County.

8 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding Subsection (b), Section
9 25.0171, Government Code, as amended by this Act, the County Court
10 at Law No. 13 of Bexar County, Texas, is created September 1, 2009,
11 or on an earlier date determined by the Commissioners Court of Bexar
12 County by an order entered in its minutes.

13 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding Subsection (b), Section
14 25.0171, Government Code, as amended by this Act, the County Court
15 at Law No. 14 of Bexar County, Texas, is created September 1, 2009,
16 or on an earlier date determined by the Commissioners Court of Bexar
17 County by an order entered in its minutes.

18 SECTION 5. Notwithstanding Subsection (b), Section
19 25.0171, Government Code, as amended by this Act, the County Court
20 at Law No. 15 of Bexar County, Texas, is created September 1, 2009,
21 or on an earlier date determined by the Commissioners Court of Bexar
22 County by an order entered in its minutes.

23 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.