

1-1 By: Flynn (Senate Sponsor - Deuell) H.B. No. 1897
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 13, 2011;
1-3 May 13, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Jurisprudence; May 21, 2011, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 21, 2011, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to the jurisdiction of, number of jurors in, and the clerk
1-9 serving the County Court at Law of Van Zandt County.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 25.2362, Government Code, is amended by
1-12 amending Subsections (a) and (f) and adding Subsection (i) to read
1-13 as follows:

1-14 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section
1-15 25.0003 and other law, and except as limited by Subsection (b), a
1-16 county court at law in Van Zandt County has concurrent jurisdiction
1-17 with the district court in:

1-18 (1) felony cases to:

1-19 (A) conduct arraignments;

1-20 (B) conduct pretrial hearings;

1-21 (C) accept guilty pleas; and

1-22 (D) conduct jury trials on assignment of a
1-23 district judge presiding in Van Zandt County and acceptance of the
1-24 assignment by the judge of the county court at law;

1-25 (2) Class A and Class B misdemeanor cases;

1-26 (3) family law matters;

1-27 (4) juvenile matters;

1-28 (5) probate matters;

1-29 (6) guardianship matters; and

1-30 (7) [46] appeals from the justice and municipal
1-31 courts.

1-32 (f) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at
1-33 law in family court matters and proceedings [~~of concurrent~~
1-34 ~~jurisdiction with the district court~~], and the county clerk shall
1-35 serve as clerk of a county court at law in all other matters. Each
1-36 clerk shall establish a separate docket for a county court at law.

1-37 (i) If a jury trial is requested in a case that is in a
1-38 county court at law's jurisdiction, the jury shall be composed of
1-39 six members unless the constitution requires a 12-member jury.

1-40 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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