

By: West
(Coleman)

S.B. No. 1233

Substitute the following for S.B. No. 1233:

By: Smith of Harris

C.S.S.B. No. 1233

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the promotion of efficiencies in and the administration
of certain district court and county services and functions.

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

SECTION 1. Section 144.041, Agriculture Code, is amended by
adding Subsection (h) to read as follows:

(h) A county clerk may accept electronic filing or
rerecording of an earmark, brand, tattoo, electronic device, or
other type of mark for which a recording is required under this
chapter or other law.

SECTION 2. Chapter 2, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
amended by adding Article 2.31 to read as follows:

Art. 2.31. COUNTY JAILERS. A jailer licensed under Chapter
1701, Occupations Code, may execute lawful process issued to the
jailer by any magistrate or court on a person confined in the jail
at which the jailer is employed to the same extent that a peace
officer is authorized to execute process under Article 2.13(b)(2),
including:

(1) a warrant under Chapter 15, 17, or 18;

(2) a capias under Chapter 17 or 23;

(3) a subpoena under Chapter 20 or 24; or

(4) an attachment under Chapter 20 or 24.

SECTION 3. Article 20.011(a), Code of Criminal Procedure,
is amended to read as follows:

1 (a) Only the following persons may be present in a grand
2 jury room while the grand jury is conducting proceedings:

3 (1) grand jurors;

4 (2) bailiffs;

5 (3) the attorney representing the state;

6 (4) witnesses while being examined or when necessary
7 to assist the attorney representing the state in examining other
8 witnesses or presenting evidence to the grand jury;

9 (5) interpreters, if necessary; ~~and~~

10 (6) a stenographer or person operating an electronic
11 recording device, as provided by Article 20.012; and

12 (7) a person operating a video teleconferencing system
13 for use under Article 20.151.

14 SECTION 4. Article 20.02(b), Code of Criminal Procedure, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 (b) A grand juror, bailiff, interpreter, stenographer or
17 person operating an electronic recording device, ~~or~~ person
18 preparing a typewritten transcription of a stenographic or
19 electronic recording, or person operating a video teleconferencing
20 system for use under Article 20.151 who discloses anything
21 transpiring before the grand jury, regardless of whether the thing
22 transpiring is recorded, in the course of the official duties of the
23 grand jury, is ~~shall be~~ liable to a fine as for contempt of the
24 court, not exceeding \$500 ~~five hundred dollars~~, imprisonment not
25 exceeding 30 ~~thirty~~ days, or both the ~~such~~ fine and
26 imprisonment.

27 SECTION 5. Chapter 20, Code of Criminal Procedure, is

1 amended by adding Article 20.151 to read as follows:

2 Art. 20.151. CERTAIN TESTIMONY BY VIDEO TELECONFERENCING.

3 (a) With the consent of the foreman of the grand jury and the
4 attorney representing the state, a peace officer summoned to
5 testify before the grand jury may testify through the use of a
6 closed circuit video conferencing system that provides an
7 encrypted, simultaneous, compressed full motion video and
8 interactive communication of image and sound between the peace
9 officer, the attorney representing the state, and the grand jury.

10 (b) In addition to being administered the oath described by
11 Article 20.16(a), before being interrogated, a peace officer
12 testifying through the use of a closed circuit video
13 teleconferencing system under this article shall affirm that:

14 (1) no person other than a person in the grand jury
15 room is capable of hearing the peace officer's testimony; and

16 (2) the peace officer's testimony is not being
17 recorded or otherwise preserved by any person at the location from
18 which the peace officer is testifying.

19 (c) Testimony received from a peace officer under this
20 article shall be recorded and preserved.

21 SECTION 6. Article 27.18, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
22 amended by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (c-1) and
23 (c-2) to read as follows:

24 (c) A recording of the communication shall be made and
25 preserved until all appellate proceedings have been disposed of. A
26 court reporter or court recorder is not required to transcribe or
27 make a separate recording of a plea taken under this article unless

1 an appeal is taken in the case and a party requests a transcript.

2 (c-1) The defendant may obtain a copy of a [the] recording
3 made under Subsection (c) on payment of a reasonable amount to cover
4 the costs of reproduction or, if the defendant is indigent, the
5 court shall provide a copy to the defendant without charging a cost
6 for the copy.

7 (c-2) The loss or destruction of or failure to make a video
8 recording of a plea entered under this article is not alone
9 sufficient grounds for a defendant to withdraw the defendant's plea
10 or to request the court to set aside a conviction, sentence, or
11 plea.

12 SECTION 7. Article 38.073, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Art. 38.073. TESTIMONY OF INMATE WITNESSES. In a
15 proceeding in the prosecution of a criminal offense in which an
16 inmate in the custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is
17 required to testify as a witness, any deposition or testimony of the
18 inmate witness may be conducted by a video teleconferencing system
19 in the manner described by Article 27.18 ~~[electronic means, in the~~
20 ~~same manner as permitted in civil cases under Section 30.012, Civil~~
21 ~~Practice and Remedies Code]~~.

22 SECTION 8. Article 49.25, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
23 amended by adding Section 13A to read as follows:

24 Sec. 13A. FEES. (a) A medical examiner may charge
25 reasonable fees for services provided by the office of medical
26 examiner under this article, including cremation approvals, court
27 testimonies, consultations, and depositions.

1 (b) The commissioners court must approve the amount of the
2 fee before the fee may be assessed. The fee may not exceed the
3 amount necessary to provide the services described by Subsection
4 (a).

5 (c) The fee may not be assessed against the county's
6 district attorney or a county office.

7 SECTION 9. Section 31.037, Election Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 Sec. 31.037. SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT. The
10 employment of the county elections administrator may be suspended,
11 with or without pay, or terminated at any time for good and
12 sufficient cause on the four-fifths vote of the county election
13 commission and approval of that action by a majority vote of the
14 commissioners court.

15 SECTION 10. Section 43.007(i), Election Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (i) The secretary of state may only select to participate in
18 the program six [~~three~~] counties with a population of 100,000 or
19 more and four [~~two~~] counties with a population of less than 100,000.

20 SECTION 11. Section 203.005(b), Family Code, is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 (b) The first payment of a fee under Subsection (a)(5)
23 [~~(a)(4)~~] is due on the date that the person required to pay support
24 is ordered to begin child support, alimony, or separate maintenance
25 payments. Subsequent payments of the fee are due annually and in
26 advance.

27 SECTION 12. Sections 51.318(b) and (e), Government Code,

are amended to read as follows:

(b) The fees are:

(1) for issuing a subpoena, including one copy . . . \$8

(2) for issuing a citation, commission for deposition, writ of execution, order of sale, writ of execution and order of sale, writ of injunction, writ of garnishment, writ of attachment, or writ of sequestration not provided for in Section 51.317, or any other writ or process not otherwise provided for, including one copy if required by law \$8

(3) for searching files or records to locate a cause when the docket number is not provided \$5

(4) for searching files or records to ascertain the existence of an instrument or record in the district clerk's office \$5

(5) for abstracting a judgment \$8

(6) for approving a bond \$4

(7) for a certified copy of a record, judgment, order, pleading, or paper on file or of record in the district clerk's office, including certificate and seal, for each page or part of a page not to exceed \$1

(8) for a noncertified copy, for each page or part of a page not to exceed \$1.

(e) The district clerk may not charge ~~[the]~~ United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement or United States Citizenship and Immigration Services ~~[Naturalization Service]~~ a fee for a copy of any document on file or of record in the clerk's office relating to an individual's criminal history, regardless of whether the

document is certified.

SECTION 13. Section 57.002, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d-1) to read as follows:

(d-1) Subject to Subsection (e), a court in a county to which Section 21.021, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, applies may appoint a spoken language interpreter who is not a licensed court interpreter.

SECTION 14. Section 101.0611, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 101.0611. DISTRICT COURT FEES AND COSTS: GOVERNMENT CODE. The clerk of a district court shall collect fees and costs under the Government Code as follows:

(1) appellate judicial system filing fees for:

(A) First or Fourteenth Court of Appeals District (Sec. 22.2021, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;

(B) Second Court of Appeals District (Sec. 22.2031, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;

(C) Third Court of Appeals District (Sec. 22.2041, Government Code) . . . \$5;

(D) Fourth Court of Appeals District (Sec. 22.2051, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;

(E) Fifth Court of Appeals District (Sec. 22.2061, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;

(F) Ninth Court of Appeals District (Sec. 22.2101, Government Code) . . . \$5;

(G) Eleventh Court of Appeals District (Sec. 22.2121, Government Code) . . . \$5; and

(H) Thirteenth Court of Appeals District (Sec. 22.2141, Government Code) . . . not more than \$5;

(2) when administering a case for the Rockwall County Court at Law (Sec. 25.2012, Government Code) . . . civil fees and court costs as if the case had been filed in district court;

(3) additional filing fees:

(A) for each suit filed for insurance contingency fund, if authorized by the county commissioners court (Sec. 51.302, Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$5;

(B) to fund the improvement of Dallas County civil court facilities, if authorized by the county commissioners court (Sec. 51.705, Government Code) . . . not more than \$15; and

(C) to fund the improvement of Hays County court facilities, if authorized by the county commissioners court (Sec. 51.707, Government Code) . . . not more than \$15;

(4) for filing a suit, including an appeal from an inferior court:

(A) for a suit with 10 or fewer plaintiffs (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$50;

(B) for a suit with at least 11 but not more than 25 plaintiffs (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$75;

(C) for a suit with at least 26 but not more than 100 plaintiffs (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$100;

(D) for a suit with at least 101 but not more than 500 plaintiffs (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$125;

(E) for a suit with at least 501 but not more than 1,000 plaintiffs (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$150; or

(F) for a suit with more than 1,000 plaintiffs
(Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$200;

(5) for filing a cross-action, counterclaim,
intervention, contempt action, motion for new trial, or third-party
petition (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . . \$15;

(6) for issuing a citation or other writ or process not
otherwise provided for, including one copy, when requested at the
time a suit or action is filed (Sec. 51.317, Government Code) . . .
\$8;

(7) for records management and preservation (Sec.
51.317, Government Code) . . . \$10;

(8) for issuing a subpoena, including one copy (Sec.
51.318, Government Code) . . . \$8;

(9) for issuing a citation, commission for deposition,
writ of execution, order of sale, writ of execution and order of
sale, writ of injunction, writ of garnishment, writ of attachment,
or writ of sequestration not provided for in Section 51.317, or any
other writ or process not otherwise provided for, including one
copy if required by law (Sec. 51.318, Government Code) . . . \$8;

(10) for searching files or records to locate a cause
when the docket number is not provided (Sec. 51.318, Government
Code) . . . \$5;

(11) for searching files or records to ascertain the
existence of an instrument or record in the district clerk's office
(Sec. 51.318, Government Code) . . . \$5;

(12) for abstracting a judgment (Sec. 51.318,
Government Code) . . . \$8;

(13) for approving a bond (Sec. 51.318, Government Code) . . . \$4;

(14) for a certified copy of a record, judgment, order, pleading, or paper on file or of record in the district clerk's office, including certificate and seal, for each page or part of a page (Sec. 51.318, Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$1;

(15) for a noncertified copy, for each page or part of a page (Sec. 51.318, Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$1;

(16) fee for performing a service:

(A) related to the matter of the estate of a deceased person (Sec. 51.319, Government Code) . . . the same fee allowed the county clerk for those services;

(B) related to the matter of a minor (Sec. 51.319, Government Code) . . . the same fee allowed the county clerk for the service;

(C) of serving process by certified or registered mail (Sec. 51.319, Government Code) . . . the same fee a sheriff or constable is authorized to charge for the service under Section 118.131, Local Government Code; and

(D) prescribed or authorized by law but for which no fee is set (Sec. 51.319, Government Code) . . . a reasonable fee;

(17) jury fee (Sec. 51.604, Government Code) . . . \$30;

(18) additional filing fee for family protection on filing a suit for dissolution of a marriage under Chapter 6, Family Code (Sec. 51.961, Government Code) . . . not to exceed \$15;

1 (19) at a hearing held by an associate judge in Dallas
2 County, a court cost to preserve the record, in the absence of a
3 court reporter, by other means (Sec. 54.509, Government Code) . . .
4 as assessed by the referring court or associate judge; and

5 (20) at a hearing held by an associate judge in Duval
6 County, a court cost to preserve the record (Sec. 54.1151,
7 Government Code) . . . as imposed by the referring court or
8 associate judge.

9 SECTION 15. Section 551.0415, Government Code, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 551.0415. GOVERNING BODY OF MUNICIPALITY OR COUNTY:
12 REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST REGARDING WHICH NO ACTION
13 WILL BE TAKEN. (a) Notwithstanding Sections 551.041 and 551.042, a
14 quorum of the governing body of a municipality or county may receive
15 from municipal or county staff and a member of the governing body
16 may make a report about items of community interest during a meeting
17 of the governing body without having given notice of the subject of
18 the report as required by this subchapter if no action is taken and,
19 except as provided by Section 551.042, possible action is not
20 discussed regarding the information provided in the report.

21 (b) For purposes of Subsection (a), "items of community
22 interest" includes:

23 (1) expressions of thanks, congratulations, or
24 condolence;

25 (2) information regarding holiday schedules;

26 (3) an honorary or salutary recognition of a public
27 official, public employee, or other citizen, except that a

1 discussion regarding a change in the status of a person's public
2 office or public employment is not an honorary or salutary
3 recognition for purposes of this subdivision;

4 (4) a reminder about an upcoming event organized or
5 sponsored by the governing body;

6 (5) information regarding a social, ceremonial, or
7 community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the
8 governing body that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a
9 member of the governing body or an official or employee of the
10 municipality or county; and

11 (6) announcements involving an imminent threat to the
12 public health and safety of people in the municipality or county
13 that has arisen after the posting of the agenda.

14 SECTION 16. Section 551.0725(a), Government Code, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 (a) The commissioners court of a county [~~with a population~~
17 ~~of 400,000 or more~~] may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate
18 business and financial issues relating to a contract being
19 negotiated if, before conducting the closed meeting:

20 (1) the commissioners court votes unanimously that
21 deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on
22 the position of the commissioners court in negotiations with a
23 third person; and

24 (2) the attorney advising the commissioners court
25 issues a written determination that deliberation in an open meeting
26 would have a detrimental effect on the position of the
27 commissioners court in negotiations with a third person.

SECTION 17. Section 61.002(5), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(5) "General revenue levy" means:

(A) the property taxes imposed by a county that are not dedicated to:

(i) the construction and maintenance of farm-to-market roads under Article VIII, Section 1-a, Texas Constitution;

(ii) ~~[or to]~~ flood control under Article VIII, Section 1-a, ~~[of the]~~ Texas Constitution;

(iii) ~~[or that are not dedicated to]~~ the further maintenance of the public roads under Article VIII, Section 9, ~~[of the]~~ Texas Constitution; or

(iv) the payment of principal or interest on county debt; and

(B) the sales and use tax revenue to be received by the county during the calendar year in which the state fiscal year begins under Chapter 323, Tax Code, as determined under Section 26.041(d), Tax Code.

SECTION 18. Section 132.002(a), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The commissioners court of a county may authorize a county or precinct officer who collects fees, fines, court costs, or other charges on behalf of the county or the state to accept payment by credit card or by the electronic processing of checks of a fee, fine, court costs, or other charge. The commissioners court may also authorize a county or precinct officer to collect and

1 retain a fee for processing the payment by credit card or by the
2 electronic processing of checks.

3 SECTION 19. Subchapter Z, Chapter 157, Local Government
4 Code, is amended by adding Section 157.9031 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 157.9031. AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE REIMBURSEMENT FOR
6 CERTAIN COVERAGE. A self-insuring county or the intergovernmental
7 pool operating under Chapter 119, under policies concerning the
8 provision of coverages adopted by the county's commissioners court
9 or the pool's governing body, may require reimbursement for the
10 provision of punitive damage coverage from a person to whom the
11 county or intergovernmental pool provides coverage.

12 SECTION 20. Sections 270.007(b) and (f), Local Government
13 Code, are amended to read as follows:

14 (b) A ~~[Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections (f)~~
15 ~~and (g), a]~~ county may exclusively contract with a person to market
16 the application or system. If the original contract for development
17 of the application or system under Subsection (a) does not include a
18 provision for marketing the application or system, a [A] contract
19 under this subsection shall be awarded ~~[only]~~ in compliance with
20 Section 262.030, ~~[Local Government Code]~~ concerning the
21 alternative competitive procedure for insurance or high technology
22 items.

23 (f) Except as provided by Subsection (b), ~~[upon request of~~
24 ~~any person,~~] a county may ~~[shall]~~ sell or license software under
25 this section for a price negotiated between the county and the
26 purchaser or licensee, including another governmental entity
27 ~~[person, not to exceed the developmental cost to the county.]~~

~~Developmental cost shall only include costs incurred under a contract to procure the software or direct employee costs incurred to develop the software. This subsection does not apply to any county software that protects county computer systems from unauthorized use or access].~~

SECTION 21. Section 352.081(e), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) An order adopted under this section expires, as applicable, on the date:

(1) a determination is made under Subsection (b) that drought conditions no longer exist; or

(2) a determination is made by the commissioners court, or the county judge or fire marshal if designated for that purpose by the commissioners court, that the circumstances identified under Subsection (c)(2) no longer exist.

SECTION 22. Section 387.003, Local Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), (b-1), (c), (e), (f), and (h) and adding Subsections (a-1), (i), and (j) to read as follows:

(a) The commissioners court of the county may call an election on the question of creating a county assistance district under this chapter. More than one county assistance district may be created in a county, but not more than one district may be created in a commissioners precinct.

(a-1) A district may ~~to~~ perform the following functions in the district:

(1) the construction, maintenance, or improvement of roads or highways;

1 (2) the provision of law enforcement and detention
2 services;

3 (3) the maintenance or improvement of libraries,
4 museums, parks, or other recreational facilities;

5 (4) the provision of services that benefit the public
6 health or welfare, including the provision of firefighting and fire
7 prevention services; or

8 (5) the promotion of economic development and tourism.

9 (b) The order calling the election must:

10 (1) define the boundaries of the district to include
11 any portion of the county in which the combined tax rate of all
12 local sales and use taxes imposed, including the rate to be imposed
13 by the district if approved at the election, would not exceed the
14 maximum combined rate of sales and use taxes imposed by political
15 subdivisions of this state that is prescribed by Sections 321.101
16 and 323.101, Tax Code [~~two percent~~]; and

17 (2) call for the election to be held within those
18 boundaries.

19 (b-1) If the proposed district includes any territory of a
20 municipality, the commissioners court shall send notice by
21 certified mail to the governing body of the municipality of the
22 commissioners court's intent to create the district. If the
23 municipality has created a development corporation under Chapter
24 504 or 505, the commissioners court shall also send the notice to
25 the board of directors of the corporation. The commissioners court
26 must send the notice not later than the 60th day before the date the
27 commissioners court orders the election. The governing body of the

1 municipality may exclude the territory of the municipality from the
 2 proposed district by sending notice by certified mail to the
 3 commissioners court of the governing body's desire to exclude the
 4 municipal territory from the district. The governing body must
 5 send the notice not later than the 45th day after the date the
 6 governing body receives notice from the commissioners court under
 7 this subsection. The territory of a municipality that is excluded
 8 under this subsection may subsequently be included in:

9 (1) the district in an election held under Subsection
 10 (f) with the consent of the municipality; or

11 (2) another district after complying with the
 12 requirements of this subsection and after an election under
 13 Subsection (f).

14 (c) The ballot at the election must be printed to permit
 15 voting for or against the proposition: "Authorizing the creation
 16 of the ____ County Assistance District No. ____ (insert name of
 17 district) and the imposition of a sales and use tax at the rate of
 18 ____ [~~of one~~] percent (insert [~~one-eighth, one-fourth,~~
 19 ~~three-eighths, or one-half, as~~] appropriate rate) for the purpose
 20 of financing the operations of the district."

21 (e) If a majority of the votes received at the election are
 22 against the creation of the district, the district is not created
 23 and the county at any time may call one or more elections [~~another~~
 24 ~~election~~] on the question of creating one or more [~~a~~] county
 25 assistance districts [~~district may not be held in the county before~~
 26 ~~the first anniversary of the most recent election concerning the~~
 27 ~~creation of a district~~].

1 (f) The commissioners court may call an election to be held
2 in an area of the county that is not located in a district created
3 under this section to determine whether the area should be included
4 in the district and whether the district's sales and use tax should
5 be imposed in the area. An election may not be held in an area in
6 which the combined tax rate of all local sales and use taxes
7 imposed, including the rate to be imposed by the district if
8 approved at the election, would exceed the maximum combined rate of
9 sales and use taxes imposed by political subdivisions of this state
10 that is prescribed by Sections 321.101 and 323.101, Tax Code [~~two~~
11 ~~percent~~].

12 (h) If more than one election to authorize a local sales and
13 use tax is held on the same day in the area of a proposed district or
14 an area proposed to be added to a district and if the resulting
15 approval by the voters would cause the imposition of a local sales
16 and use tax in any area to exceed the maximum combined rate of sales
17 and use taxes of political subdivisions of this state that is
18 prescribed by Sections 321.101 and 323.101, Tax Code [~~two percent~~],
19 only a tax authorized at an election under this section may be
20 imposed.

21 (i) In addition to the authority to include an area in a
22 district under Subsection (f), the governing body of a district by
23 order may include an area in the district on receipt of a petition
24 or petitions signed by the owner or owners of the majority of the
25 land in the area to be included in the district. If there are no
26 registered voters in the area to be included in the district, no
27 election is required.

1 (j) The commissioners court by order may exclude an area
2 from the district if the district has no outstanding bonds payable
3 wholly or partly from sales and use taxes and the exclusion does not
4 impair any outstanding district debt or contractual obligation.

5 SECTION 23. Section 387.005, Local Government Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 387.005. GOVERNING BODY. (a) The commissioners court
8 of the county in which the district is created by order shall
9 provide that:

10 (1) the commissioners court is the governing body of
11 the district; or

12 (2) the commissioners court shall appoint a governing
13 body of the district.

14 (b) A member of the governing body of the district
15 ~~[commissioners court]~~ is not entitled to compensation for service
16 ~~[on the governing body of the district]~~ but is entitled to
17 reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses.

18 (c) A board of directors appointed by the commissioners
19 court under this section shall consist of five directors who serve
20 staggered terms of two years. To be eligible to serve as a
21 director, a person must be at least 18 years of age and a resident of
22 the county in which the district is located. The initial directors
23 shall draw lots to achieve staggered terms, with three of the
24 directors serving one-year terms and two of the directors serving
25 two-year terms.

26 SECTION 24. Section 387.006(a), Local Government Code, is
27 amended to read as follows:

(a) A district may:

(1) perform any act necessary to the full exercise of the district's functions;

(2) accept a grant or loan from:

(A) the United States;

(B) an agency or political subdivision of this state; or

(C) a public or private person;

(3) acquire, sell, lease, convey, or otherwise dispose of property or an interest in property under terms determined by the district;

(4) employ necessary personnel; ~~and~~

(5) adopt rules to govern the operation of the district and its employees and property; and

(6) enter into agreements with municipalities necessary or convenient to achieve the district's purposes, including agreements regarding the duration, rate, and allocation between the district and the municipality of sales and use taxes.

SECTION 25. Section 387.007(b), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A district may not adopt a sales and use tax under this chapter if the adoption of the tax would result in a combined tax rate of all local sales and use taxes that would exceed the maximum combined rate prescribed by Sections 321.101 and 323.101, Tax Code, ~~[of more than two percent]~~ in any location in the district.

SECTION 26. Section 387.009, Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 Sec. 387.009. TAX RATE. The rate of a tax adopted under
2 this chapter must be in increments of one-eighth~~[, one-fourth,~~
3 ~~three-eighths, or one-half]~~ of one percent.

4 SECTION 27. Sections 387.010(a), (b), and (c), Local
5 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

6 (a) A district that has adopted a sales and use tax under
7 this chapter may, by order and subject to Section 387.007(b):

8 (1) reduce [, change] the rate of the tax or repeal the
9 tax without an election, except that the district may not repeal the
10 sales and use tax or reduce the rate of the sales and use tax below
11 the amount pledged to secure payment of an outstanding district
12 debt or contractual obligation;

13 (2) increase the rate of the sales and use tax, if the
14 increased rate of the sales and use tax will not exceed the rate
15 approved at an election held under Section 387.003; or

16 (3) increase the rate of the sales and use tax to a
17 rate that exceeds the rate approved at an election held under
18 Section 387.003 after [if] the increase [change or repeal] is
19 approved by a majority of the votes received in the district at an
20 election held for that purpose.

21 (b) The tax may be changed under Subsection (a) in one or
22 more increments of one-eighth of one percent ~~[to a maximum of~~
23 ~~one-half of one percent]~~.

24 (c) The ballot for an election to increase [change] the tax
25 shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition:
26 "The increase [change] of a sales and use tax for the ____ County
27 Assistance District No. ____ (insert name of district) from the rate

1 of ____ [~~of one~~] percent (insert [~~one-fourth, three-eighths, or~~
2 ~~one-half, as~~] appropriate rate) to the rate of ____ [~~of one~~] percent
3 (insert [~~one-fourth, three-eighths, or one-half, as~~] appropriate
4 rate)."

5 SECTION 28. Section 387.012, Local Government Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 387.012. EFFECTIVE DATE OF TAX. The adoption of the
8 tax, the increase or reduction [~~change~~] of the tax rate, or the
9 repeal of the tax takes effect on the first day of the first
10 calendar quarter occurring after the expiration of the first
11 complete quarter occurring after the date the comptroller receives
12 a copy of the order of the district's governing body [~~notice of the~~
13 ~~results of the election~~] adopting, increasing, reducing
14 [~~changing~~], or repealing the tax.

15 SECTION 29. Chapter 51, Property Code, is amended by adding
16 Section 51.0022 to read as follows:

17 Sec. 51.0022. FORECLOSURE DATA COLLECTION. (a) In this
18 section, "department" means the Texas Department of Housing and
19 Community Affairs.

20 (b) A person filing a notice of sale of residential property
21 under Section 51.002(b) must submit to the county clerk a completed
22 form that provides the zip code for the property.

23 (c) On completion of a sale of real property, the trustee or
24 sheriff shall submit to the county clerk a completed form that
25 contains information on whether the property is residential and the
26 zip code of the property.

27 (d) Not later than the 30th day after the date of receipt of

1 a form under this section, the county clerk shall transmit the form
2 to the department.

3 (e) The board of the department shall prescribe the forms
4 required under this section. The forms may only request
5 information on whether the property is residential and the zip code
6 of the property.

7 (f) The department shall report the information received
8 under this section quarterly to the legislature in a format
9 established by the board of the department by rule.

10 SECTION 30. Sections 86.022, 112.008, and 387.010(d),
11 Local Government Code, are repealed.

12 SECTION 31. (a) Articles 20.011(a) and 20.02(b), Code of
13 Criminal Procedure, as amended by this Act, and Article 20.151,
14 Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by this Act, apply only to
15 testimony before a grand jury that is impaneled on or after the
16 effective date of this Act.

17 (b) Article 27.18, Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended by
18 this Act, applies to a plea of guilty or nolo contendere entered on
19 or after the effective date of this Act, regardless of whether the
20 offense with reference to which the plea is entered is committed
21 before, on, or after that date.

22 (c) Article 38.073, Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended
23 by this Act, applies only to the testimony of an inmate witness that
24 is taken on or after the effective date of this Act.

25 (d) Section 13A, Article 49.25, Code of Criminal Procedure,
26 as added by this Act, applies only to a service provided by a
27 medical examiner's office on or after the effective date of this

1 Act. A service provided before the effective date of this Act is
2 covered by the law in effect on the date the service was provided,
3 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

4 (e) Sections 51.318(b) and 101.0611, Government Code, as
5 amended by this Act, apply only to a request for a certified copy of
6 a record, judgment, order, pleading, or paper on file or of record
7 in the district clerk's office, including certificate and seal,
8 made on or after the effective date of this Act. A request made
9 before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in
10 effect when the request was made, and the former law is continued in
11 effect for that purpose.

12 (f) Section 57.002(d-1), Government Code, as added by this
13 Act, applies only to the appointment of a court interpreter under
14 Chapter 57, Government Code, as amended by this Act, on or after the
15 effective date of this Act. The appointment of a court interpreter
16 before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in
17 effect when the interpreter was appointed, and the former law is
18 continued in effect for that purpose.

19 (g) Section 551.0725(a), Government Code, as amended by
20 this Act, applies only to a meeting held on or after the effective
21 date of this Act. A meeting held before the effective date of this
22 Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the meeting is held,
23 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

24 (h) Sections 270.007(b) and (f), Local Government Code, as
25 amended by this Act, apply only to a contract entered into on or
26 after the effective date of this Act. A contract entered into
27 before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in

1 effect when the contract was entered into, and the former law is
2 continued in effect for that purpose.

3 (i) The board of the Texas Department of Housing and
4 Community Affairs shall adopt the forms and rules required by
5 Section 51.0022, Property Code, as added by this Act, not later than
6 January 1, 2012.

7 (j) The change in law made by Section 51.0022, Property
8 Code, as added by this Act, applies only to a notice of sale filed on
9 or after January 1, 2012. A notice of sale filed before January 1,
10 2012, is governed by the law in effect immediately before the
11 effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in
12 effect for that purpose.

13 SECTION 32. This Act takes effect immediately if it
14 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
15 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
16 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
17 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2011.