

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 922

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a county court at law in Atascosa County.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 25.0091 and 25.0092 to read as follows:

Sec. 25.0091. ATASCOSA COUNTY. Atascosa County has one statutory county court, the County Court at Law of Atascosa County.

Sec. 25.0092. ATASCOSA COUNTY COURT AT LAW PROVISIONS. (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and other law, and except as limited by Subsection (b), a county court at law in Atascosa County has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:

(1) Class A and Class B misdemeanor cases;

(2) family law matters;

(3) juvenile matters;

(4) probate matters; and

(5) appeals from the justice and municipal courts.

(b) A county court at law does not have general supervisory control or appellate review of the commissioners court or jurisdiction of:

(1) suits on behalf of this state to recover penalties or escheated property;

(2) misdemeanors involving official misconduct; or

1           (3) contested elections.

2           (c) The judge of a county court at law must have the same  
3 qualifications as those required by law for a district judge.

4           (d) The judge of a county court at law shall be paid a total  
5 annual salary set by the commissioners court at an amount that is  
6 not less than \$1,000 less than the total annual salary received by a  
7 district judge in the county. A district judge's or statutory  
8 county court judge's total annual salary does not include  
9 contributions and supplements paid by a county.

10           (e) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at  
11 law in matters of concurrent jurisdiction with the district court,  
12 and the county clerk shall serve as clerk of a county court at law in  
13 all other matters. Each clerk shall establish a separate docket for  
14 a county court at law.

15           (f) The official court reporter of a county court at law is  
16 entitled to receive a salary set by the judge of the county court at  
17 law with the approval of the commissioners court.

18           (g) Jurors summoned for a county court at law or a district  
19 court in the county may by order of the judge of the court to which  
20 they are summoned be transferred to another court for service and  
21 may be used as if summoned for the court to which they are  
22 transferred.

23           SECTION 2. Notwithstanding Section 25.0091, Government  
24 Code, as added by this Act, the County Court at Law of Atascosa  
25 County is created January 1, 2014, or on an earlier date determined  
26 by the Commissioners Court of Atascosa County by an order entered in  
27 its minutes.

1           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.