

By: Faircloth

H.B. No. 1688

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to proceedings held in auxiliary facilities outside certain county seats.

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

SECTION 1. Section 24.430, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) Section 24.490, relating to the 344th District Court, contains provisions applicable to both that court and the 253rd District Court in Chambers County.

SECTION 2. Section 24.490, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

(d) Notwithstanding Section 24.030, a district court in Chambers County may sit in a suitable facility outside the county seat if the facility is designated by the commissioners court as an auxiliary county seat, as provided by Section 292.031, Local Government Code.

(e) A district court in Chambers County sitting in an auxiliary court facility designated by the commissioners court as an auxiliary county seat may hear, in all case types, the motions, arguments, nonjury trials and jury trials, and any other matters before the court within the court's jurisdiction.

(f) The district clerk or the clerk's deputy serves as clerk of the court when a district court sits in a facility designated as an auxiliary county seat and may keep all necessary books, minutes,

1 records, and papers at the facility.

2 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 292, Local Government
3 Code, is amended by adding Section 292.031 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 292.031. FACILITIES OUTSIDE COUNTY SEAT IN CERTAIN
5 COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a county with a
6 population of less than 40,000 that is adjacent to a county with a
7 population of more than 3.3 million.

8 (b) The commissioners court of a county may provide an
9 auxiliary court facility, office building, or jail facility at a
10 location in the county and within 10 miles of the boundaries of the
11 county seat in the same manner that is applicable to a court,
12 building, or facility at the county seat. The commissioners court
13 may provide for the building or facility through the issuance of
14 bonds or other evidences of indebtedness as provided under Section
15 292.002 and may provide office space in the building or facility for
16 any county or precinct office.

17 (c) The auxiliary court facility may be used for the holding
18 of court proceedings, including district court proceedings. For the
19 purpose of the court proceedings, the commissioners court may
20 designate the location of the auxiliary court as an auxiliary
21 county seat.

22 (d) The records of a county officer who is provided space at
23 a court facility, building, or other facility under this section
24 may be kept at the building or facility.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.