

1-1 By: Harless, Dutton, Davis of Harris H.B. No. 2536
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Whitmire)
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 4, 2015;
 1-4 May 4, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on State
 1-5 Affairs; May 12, 2015, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-6 Yeas 5, Nays 2; May 12, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8 Huffman	X			
1-9 Ellis		X		
1-10 Birdwell	X			
1-11 Creighton		X		
1-12 Estes	X			
1-13 Fraser			X	
1-14 Nelson	X			
1-15 Schwertner			X	
1-16 Zaffirini	X			

1-18 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-19 AN ACT

1-20 relating to jurisdiction in an eminent domain proceeding in Harris
 1-21 County.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Section 25.1032, Government Code, is amended by
 1-24 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read as
 1-25 follows:

1-26 (c) A county civil court at law has exclusive jurisdiction
 1-27 in Harris County of eminent domain proceedings, both statutory and
 1-28 inverse, if the amount in controversy in a statutory proceeding
 1-29 does not exceed the amount provided by Section 25.0003(c) in civil
 1-30 cases. Notwithstanding Section 21.013, Property Code, a party
 1-31 initiating a condemnation proceeding in Harris County may file a
 1-32 petition with the district clerk when the amount in controversy
 1-33 exceeds the amount provided by Section 25.0003(c). The amount in
 1-34 controversy is the amount of the bona fide offer made by the entity
 1-35 with eminent domain authority to acquire the property from the
 1-36 property owner voluntarily [regardless of the amount in
 1-37 controversy].

1-38 (d) In addition to other jurisdiction provided by law, a
 1-39 county civil court at law has jurisdiction to:

1-40 (1) decide the issue of title to real or personal
 1-41 property;

1-42 (2) hear a suit to recover damages for slander or
 1-43 defamation of character;

1-44 (3) hear a suit for the enforcement of a lien on real
 1-45 property;

1-46 (4) hear a suit for the forfeiture of a corporate
 1-47 charter;

1-48 (5) hear a suit for the trial of the right to property
 1-49 valued at \$200 or more that has been levied on under a writ of
 1-50 execution, sequestration, or attachment; and

1-51 (6) hear a suit for the recovery of real property.

1-52 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
 1-53 to an eminent domain proceeding for which a petition is filed on or
 1-54 after the effective date of this Act. An eminent domain proceeding
 1-55 for which a petition is filed before the effective date of this Act
 1-56 is governed by the law in effect immediately before that date, and
 1-57 that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1-58 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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