

By: Birdwell, Hinojosa

S.B. No. 524

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a review of state laws requiring an action or proceeding to be brought in Travis County or a Travis County court.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 325, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 325.0235 to read as follows:

Sec. 325.0235. REVIEW OF CERTAIN STATE LAWS. (a) The commission shall review the laws of this state to identify each statute and state agency rule that requires an action or proceeding to be brought or considered in Travis County, a Travis County district or statutory county court, or the Court of Appeals for the Third Court of Appeals District.

(b) The commission shall make recommendations on whether the location of the action or proceeding in each statute or state agency rule identified under Subsection (a) serves a legitimate state purpose, other than the convenience of the state agency, that supersedes the interests of persons required to travel to Travis County to attend or participate in the action or proceeding or whether the identified statute or state agency rule should be revised to authorize an action or proceeding to be brought or considered in another county in this state. If the commission recommends authorization of the action or proceeding in another county, the commission shall estimate any additional costs to this state that would be incurred in implementing the revision.

1 (c) The commission shall prepare a report on the statutes
2 and state agency rules identified under Subsection (a) and the
3 recommendations made and costs determined under Subsection (b) and
4 post the report on the commission's Internet website not later than
5 December 1, 2016. The commission shall submit an electronic copy of
6 the report prepared under this subsection to the governor,
7 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives.

8 (d) The Texas Legislative Council shall assist the
9 commission in identifying the statutes and state agency rules under
10 Subsection (a) and the Legislative Budget Board shall assist the
11 commission in estimating any additional costs to this state that
12 would be incurred in implementing the recommendations made under
13 Subsection (b).

14 (e) This section expires September 1, 2017.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.