

By: Whitmire

S.B. No. 980

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to jurisdiction in an eminent domain proceeding in Harris  
3 County.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 25.1032, Government Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read as  
7 follows:

8 (c) A county civil court at law has exclusive jurisdiction  
9 in Harris County of eminent domain proceedings, both statutory and  
10 inverse, if the amount in controversy in a statutory proceeding  
11 does not exceed the amount provided by Section 25.0003(c) in civil  
12 cases. Notwithstanding Section 21.013, Property Code, a party  
13 initiating a condemnation proceeding in Harris County may file a  
14 petition with the district clerk when the amount in controversy  
15 exceeds the amount provided by Section 25.0003(c). The amount in  
16 controversy is the amount of the bona fide offer made by the entity  
17 with eminent domain authority to acquire the property from the  
18 property owner voluntarily [~~regardless of the amount in~~  
19 ~~controversy~~].

20 (d) In addition to other jurisdiction provided by law, a  
21 county civil court at law has jurisdiction to:

22 (1) decide the issue of title to real or personal  
23 property;

24 (2) hear a suit to recover damages for slander or

1 defamation of character;

2           (3) hear a suit for the enforcement of a lien on real  
3 property;

4           (4) hear a suit for the forfeiture of a corporate  
5 charter;

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

9           (6) hear a suit for the recovery of real property.

10           SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
11 to an eminent domain proceeding for which a petition is filed on or  
12 after the effective date of this Act. An eminent domain proceeding  
13 for which a petition is filed before the effective date of this Act  
14 is governed by the law in effect immediately before that date, and  
15 that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

16           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.