

By: Murr

H.B. No. 287

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the payment of certain costs associated with certain assignments of a statutory probate court judge.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 352, Estates Code, is amended by adding Section 352.054 to read as follows:

Sec. 352.054. REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTAIN COSTS FOR ASSIGNED JUDGE. If a party to a probate proceeding files a motion for the assignment of a statutory probate court judge to hear a contested matter in the proceeding under Section 32.003 and the motion is granted, the court may, on the court's own motion or on the motion of the party who filed the motion for the assignment, order that a county be reimbursed out of the estate for any amounts the county paid as compensation and expenses under Sections 25.0022(o) and (p), Government Code.

SECTION 2. Section 25.0022, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (m), (o), and (p) and adding Subsection (o-1) to read as follows:

(m) The presiding judge shall certify to the county judge in the county in which the assigned judge served:

- (1) the expenses approved under Subsection (1); ~~and~~
- (2) a determination of the assigned judge's salary;

and

- (3) if applicable, a determination of the amounts to

1 be apportioned to a party or between two or more parties to a  
2 probate proceeding as prescribed under Subsection (o-1), together  
3 with the contact information of the party or parties.

4 (o) The county in which the assigned judge served shall:

5 (1) pay out of the general fund of the county:

6 (A) [~~(1)~~] expenses certified under Subsection  
7 (m) to the assigned judge; and

8 (B) [~~(2)~~] the salary certified under Subsection  
9 (m) to the county in which the assigned judge serves, or, if the  
10 assigned judge is a former or retired judge, to the assigned judge;  
11 and

12 (2) if applicable, seek reimbursement from one or more  
13 parties to a probate proceeding of the amounts apportioned to a  
14 party or between the parties as prescribed under Subsection (o-1).

15 (o-1) If a party to a probate proceeding files a motion for  
16 the assignment of a statutory probate court judge to hear a  
17 contested matter in the proceeding under Section 32.003, Estates  
18 Code, and the motion is granted, the assigned statutory probate  
19 court judge may, in accordance with Section 352.054, Estates Code,  
20 order that the county be reimbursed as an expense from the estate  
21 for any amounts the county paid as compensation and expenses under  
22 Subsections (o) and (p). If the statutory probate court judge does  
23 not order the reimbursement of the county from the estate under this  
24 subsection:

25 (1) subject to Subdivision (2), the party who  
26 requested the assignment shall reimburse the county for the amounts  
27 paid by the county as compensation and expenses under Subsections

1 (o) and (p); and

2 (2) if more than one party to a proceeding filed the  
3 motion for the assignment of the statutory probate court judge, the  
4 statutory probate court judge shall:

5 (A) prescribe the amounts or manner by which the  
6 judge's compensation and expenses are to be equitably apportioned  
7 between those parties for purposes of reimbursement under this  
8 section; and

9 (B) provide the amounts or manner of  
10 apportionment to the presiding judge.

11 (p) In addition to all compensation and expenses authorized  
12 by this section and other law, a judge who is assigned to a court  
13 outside the county of the judge's residence is entitled to receive  
14 \$25 for each day or fraction of a day served. Subject to Subsection  
15 (o-1), the [The] county in which the judge served shall pay the  
16 additional compensation from the county's general fund on  
17 certification by the presiding judge.

18 SECTION 3. Section 25.0022, Government Code, as amended by  
19 this Act, applies only to a motion for the assignment of a statutory  
20 probate court judge under Section 32.003, Estates Code, that is  
21 filed on or after the effective date of this Act. A motion filed  
22 before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in  
23 effect on the date the motion was filed, and the former law is  
24 continued in effect for that purpose.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect December 1, 2017.