

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
85R12070 YDB-F

H.B. 3321
By: Frank (Perry)
State Affairs
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Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The 50th Judicial District (Baylor, Knox, Cottle, and King counties) is one of the few judicial districts in Texas that is not allowed to handle any civil matters. As civil matters, protective orders cannot be handled by the 50th Judicial District, though they are handled by other county courts throughout the state. However, when a person comes in needing a protective order, the county court must coordinate with a district court to obtain the needed paperwork—a process that can take days. But those seeking a protective order may not be able to afford to wait a few days while the bureaucratic process sorts out. Protective orders are usually needed quickly, and the current set-up for the 50th Judicial District is not expedient.

H.B. 3321 streamlines the process for obtaining a protective order by bringing the jurisdiction for protective orders back under the umbrella of county courts within the 50th Judicial District.

H.B. 3321 amends current law relating to jurisdiction of the county courts in certain counties.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 26.112, Government Code, to provide that the County Court of Baylor County has certain jurisdiction, including jurisdiction over cases and proceedings involving protective orders, but has no other civil jurisdiction.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 26.151, Government Code, to provide that the County Court of Cottle County has certain jurisdiction, including jurisdiction over cases and proceedings involving protective orders, but has no other civil jurisdiction.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 26.235, Government Code, to provide that the County Court of King County has certain jurisdiction, including jurisdiction over cases and proceedings involving protective orders, but has no other civil jurisdiction.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 26.238, Government Code, to provide that the County Court of Knox County has certain jurisdiction, including jurisdiction over cases and proceedings involving protective orders, but has no other civil jurisdiction.

SECTION 6. Effective date: September 1, 2017.