

By: Smithee

H.B. No. 1021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to county law libraries.

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

SECTION 1. Section 323.021, Local Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(a) The commissioners court of a county by order may establish and maintain a county law library at the county seat or another location determined by the commissioners court.

(c) The commissioners court of a county may establish, maintain, and operate in cooperation with other counties a joint free county law library for the benefit of the cooperating counties in the same manner that a joint county library may be established and operated under Section 323.010.

SECTION 2. Section 323.023(b), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The clerks of the respective courts shall collect the costs and pay them to the county treasurer, or to any other official who discharges the duties commonly delegated to the county treasurer, for deposit in a fund to be known as the county law library fund. The fund may be used only for:

(1) establishing the law library after the entry of the order creating it;

(2) purchasing or leasing library materials,

1 maintaining the library, or acquiring furniture, shelving, or
2 equipment for the library; ~~or~~

3 (3) purchasing or leasing library materials or
4 acquiring library equipment, including computers, software, and
5 subscriptions to obtain access to electronic research networks for
6 use by judges in the county; or

7 (4) establishing and maintaining a self-help center to
8 provide resources to county residents representing themselves in
9 legal matters.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.