

By: Lambert

H.B. No. 4281

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the 1st Multicounty County Court at Law.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25.2702, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (d), and (h) and adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and other law, the 1st Multicounty Court at Law has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:

- (1) family law cases and proceedings; and
- (2) felony criminal cases.

(d) The judge of the county court at law shall appoint an official court reporter. The judge may appoint a court administrator to aid the judge in the performance of the judge's duties. The [An] official court reporter and the court administrator of the county court at law are [is] entitled to receive the same salary and to be paid in the same manner as the official court reporter and court administrator, respectively, of the district court in the administrative county for the court [a salary set by the commissioners courts in the counties the reporter serves to be paid out of the county treasuries, either by salary or by contract as set by the commissioners courts]. The clerk of the court shall tax as costs, in each civil, criminal, and probate case in which a record of any part of the evidence in the case is made by

1 the reporter, a stenographer's fee of \$25. The fee shall be paid in  
2 the same manner as other costs in the case. The clerk collects the  
3 fee and pays it into the general funds of the counties.

4 (g) The judge of the county court at law is entitled to  
5 travel expenses and necessary office expenses as authorized by the  
6 commissioners court of the administrative county.

7 (h) Notwithstanding Section [74.121\(b\)\(1\)](#), [~~in matters of~~  
8 ~~concurrent jurisdiction,~~] the judge of the 1st Multicounty Court at  
9 Law and the judges of the district courts in Fisher, Mitchell, and  
10 Nolan Counties may exchange benches and courtrooms and may transfer  
11 cases between their dockets in the same manner that judges of  
12 district courts exchange benches and transfer cases under Section  
13 [24.003](#).

14 SECTION 2. Section 3.07(b), Chapter 1182 (S.B. 1139), Acts  
15 of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, which amends  
16 Section [25.2701](#), Government Code, is repealed.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.