

1-1 By: Perry S.B. No. 378
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed December 20, 2016; February 1, 2017,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;
 1-4 February 21, 2017, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-5 Yeas 8, Nays 0; February 21, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

| | Yea | Nay | Absent | PNV |
|------|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| 1-7 | | | | |
| 1-8 | X | | | |
| 1-9 | X | | | |
| 1-10 | X | | | |
| 1-11 | X | | | |
| 1-12 | | | X | |
| 1-13 | X | | | |
| 1-14 | X | | | |
| 1-15 | X | | | |
| 1-16 | X | | | |

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the persons authorized to conduct an inquest in certain
 1-20 counties.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. The heading to Subchapter C, Chapter 27,
 1-23 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-24 SUBCHAPTER C. CONDUCTING COURT AND INQUESTS

1-25 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 27, Government Code, is
 1-26 amended by adding Section 27.0545 to read as follows:

1-27 Sec. 27.0545. EXCHANGE OF BENCHES: INQUESTS. (a) If a
 1-28 justice of the peace or the county judge of a county to which
 1-29 Subchapter A, Chapter 49, Code of Criminal Procedure, applies is
 1-30 not available to conduct an inquest into a person's death occurring
 1-31 in the county, the justice of the peace of the precinct in which the
 1-32 death occurred or the county judge may request a justice of the
 1-33 peace of another county to which that subchapter applies to conduct
 1-34 the inquest.

1-35 (b) A justice of the peace who on request conducts an
 1-36 inquest under this section shall, not later than the fifth day after
 1-37 the date the inquest is initiated, transfer all information related
 1-38 to the inquest to the justice of the peace of the precinct in which
 1-39 the death occurred for final disposition of the matter.

1-40 (c) A justice of the peace who conducts an inquest under
 1-41 this section is not entitled to receive from the commissioners
 1-42 court of the county in which the death occurred any compensation,
 1-43 other than mileage, for conducting the inquest.

1-44 SECTION 3. Article 49.07(c), Code of Criminal Procedure, is
 1-45 amended by adding Subdivision (3) to read as follows:

1-46 (3) If a justice of the peace or the county judge
 1-47 serving the county in which the body or body part was found is not
 1-48 available to conduct an inquest, a person required to give notice
 1-49 under this article may ask the justice of the peace of the precinct
 1-50 in which the body or body part was found or the county judge to
 1-51 request a justice of the peace of another county to which this
 1-52 subchapter applies to conduct the inquest. The justice of the peace
 1-53 that conducts the inquest shall, not later than the fifth day after
 1-54 the date the inquest is initiated, transfer all information related
 1-55 to the inquest to the justice of the peace of the precinct in which
 1-56 the body or body part was found for final disposition of the matter.
 1-57 All expenses related to the inquest must be paid as provided by this
 1-58 chapter.

1-59 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

1-60 * * * * *