

By: Birdwell

S.B. No. 525

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a review of state laws requiring an action or proceeding to be brought in Travis County or a Travis County court.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 325, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 325.0235 to read as follows:

Sec. 325.0235. REVIEW OF CERTAIN STATE LAWS. (a) The commission shall review the laws of this state to identify each statute and state agency rule that requires an action or proceeding to be brought or considered in Travis County, a Travis County district or statutory county court, or the Court of Appeals for the Third Court of Appeals District.

(b) For each statute or state agency rule identified under Subsection (a), the commission shall make recommendations on whether:

(1) the location of the action or proceeding serves a legitimate state purpose, other than the convenience of the state agency, that supersedes the interests of persons required to travel to Travis County to attend or participate in the action or proceeding; or

(2) the identified statute or rule should be revised to authorize an action or proceeding to be brought or considered in another county in this state.

(c) If the commission recommends authorization of an action

1 or proceeding in another county under Subsection (b)(2), the
2 commission shall estimate any additional costs to this state that
3 would be incurred in implementing the revision.

4 (d) The commission shall:

5 (1) prepare a report on the statutes and state agency
6 rules identified under Subsection (a), the recommendations made
7 under Subsection (b), and the costs determined under Subsection
8 (c); and

9 (2) not later than December 1, 2018, post the report
10 prepared under Subdivision (1) on the commission's Internet website
11 and submit an electronic copy of the report to the governor,
12 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives.

13 (e) The Texas Legislative Council shall assist the
14 commission in identifying the statutes and state agency rules
15 described by Subsection (a). The Legislative Budget Board shall
16 assist the commission in estimating under Subsection (c) any
17 additional costs to this state that would be incurred in
18 implementing the recommendations made under Subsection (b)(2).

19 (f) This section expires September 1, 2019.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.