

By: Middleton

H.B. No. 1939

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a county court at law in Chambers County.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 25.0381 and 25.0382 to read as follows:

Sec. 25.0381. CHAMBERS COUNTY. Chambers County has one statutory county court, the County Court at Law of Chambers County.

Sec. 25.0382. CHAMBERS COUNTY COURT AT LAW PROVISIONS. (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and other law, a county court at law in Chambers County has the jurisdiction provided by the constitution and by general law for district courts, including concurrent jurisdiction in:

(1) arraignments, pleas, and pretrial motions for felony cases;

(2) trials for felony cases transferred from a district court in Chambers County to the county court at law; and

(3) family law cases and proceedings.

(b) In matters of concurrent jurisdiction, a judge of a county court at law and a judge of a district court in Chambers County may transfer cases between the courts in the same manner that judges of district courts may transfer cases under Section 24.003.

(c) The judge of a county court at law shall be paid an annual salary that is at least equal to the amount that is \$1,000

1 less than the total annual salary, including supplements, received
2 by a district judge in the county. The salary shall be paid out of
3 the county treasury on order of the commissioners court.

4 (d) The judge of a county court at law is entitled to travel
5 expenses and necessary office expenses, including administrative
6 and clerical help, in the same manner as a district judge in the
7 county.

8 (e) The district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at
9 law for family cases and proceedings, and the county clerk serves as
10 clerk for all other cases. The commissioners court may employ as
11 many deputy sheriffs and bailiffs as are necessary to serve the
12 court.

13 (f) If a case or proceeding in which a county court at law
14 has concurrent jurisdiction with a district court is tried before a
15 jury, the jury shall be composed of 12 members. In all other cases,
16 the jury shall be composed of six members.

17 (g) The judge of a county court at law may, instead of
18 appointing an official court reporter, contract for the services of
19 a court reporter under guidelines established by the commissioners
20 court.

21 (h) The laws governing the drawing, selection, service, and
22 pay of jurors for county courts apply to a county court at law.
23 Jurors regularly impaneled for a week by the district court may, on
24 a request of a judge of the county court at law, be made available
25 and shall serve for the week in a county court at law.

26 (i) A county court at law has the same terms of court as a
27 district court in Chambers County.

1 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding Section 25.0381, Government
2 Code, as added by this Act, the County Court at Law of Chambers
3 County is created on January 1, 2021, or an earlier date determined
4 by the Commissioners Court of Chambers County by an order entered in
5 its minutes.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.