By:  Curry, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Middleton) H.B. No. 2715

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2025; May 7, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government; May 20, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 2; May 20, 2025, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                 Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Bettencourt       X

Middleton         X

Cook                  X

Gutierrez                   X

Nichols           X

Paxton            X

West                  X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the removal from office of certain officers of political subdivisions.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 87.015(c), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c)  A petition for removal of an officer under this subchapter [~~other than a prosecuting attorney must be addressed to the district judge of the court in which it is filed. A petition for removal of a prosecuting attorney~~] must be addressed to the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region in which the petition is filed. The petition must set forth the grounds alleged for the removal of the officer in plain and intelligible language and must cite the time and place of the occurrence of each act alleged as a ground for removal with as much certainty as the nature of the case permits.

SECTION 2.  Section 87.0151, Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 87.0151.  ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGE [~~IN CERTAIN CASES~~]. (a) Immediately after a petition for removal of an officer under this subchapter [~~a prosecuting attorney~~] is filed under Section 87.015, the district clerk shall deliver a copy of the petition to the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region in which the court sits.

(b)  On receiving a petition for removal [~~of a prosecuting attorney~~] under Subsection (a), the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region shall assign a district court judge of a judicial district that does not include the county in which the petition was filed to conduct the removal proceedings.

SECTION 3.  Section 87.018(f), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(f)  In a proceeding to remove an officer under this subchapter [~~a prosecuting attorney from office~~], the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region in which the petition for removal was filed shall appoint a prosecuting attorney from another judicial district or county, as applicable, in the administrative judicial region to represent the state.

SECTION 4.  Sections 87.018(d) and (e), Local Government Code, are repealed.

SECTION 5.  The changes in law made by this Act apply only to the removal of an officer under Subchapter B, Chapter 87, Local Government Code, for which the petition for removal is filed under that subchapter on or after the effective date of this Act. The removal of an officer for which the petition for removal is filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the petition is filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 6.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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