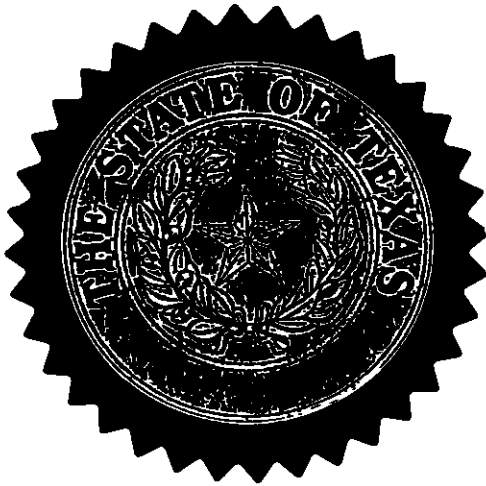


The general law in Texas for municipal courts allows a municipality to choose between providing a court reporter or using a good quality electronic recording device to preserve the record in cases tried before a municipal court of record.

Currently, several municipalities prohibit their municipal courts from using an electronic recording device instead of a court reporter. House Bill No. 1729 changes the prohibition relating to the City of Longview only.

While rules for the operation of the judiciary traditionally have been treated on an ad hoc basis, this is not the most effective method. The rules applicable to one type of court should be consistent throughout the state.

Therefore, by way of this message, I request that the Legislature look at the judiciary as a whole and be vigilant and aggressive in assuring that all courts of the same level are governed by the same rules.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 20th day of June, 2003.

Rick Perry

RICK PERRY
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:

Gwyn Shea
GWYN SHEA
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
3:30 P.M. O'CLOCK

JUN 21 2003

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the municipal court of record for the City of Longview.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 30.00536, Government Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 30.00536. COURT REPORTER. [~~a~~] The municipal judge
7 shall appoint the court reporter under Section 30.00010.

8 [~~c~~ Section 30.00010(d) does not apply to this
9 subchapter.]

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

David Newhall

President of the Senate

Jim Caddick

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1729 was passed by the House on April 25, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1729 was passed by the Senate on May 27, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Dorothy Spaul
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 20 JUN 03

Date

Rick Perry
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
3:30 PM O'CLOCK

JUN 21 2003
Steph Shea
Secretary of State