

Chapter 954

S.B. No. 1893

AN ACT

relating to the administrative judicial regions in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 71, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 71.038 to read as follows:

Sec. 71.038. REGIONAL INFORMATION. The council shall collect judicial statistics and other pertinent information from the presiding judges of each administrative judicial region in this state regarding the amount and character of any business transacted by the presiding judges. As a duty of office, the presiding judges shall report monthly any information required by the council under this section.

SECTION 2. Effective September 1, 2017, Section 74.042, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) and adding Subsections (k) and (l) to read as follows:

(a) The state is divided into 11 [~~nine~~] administrative judicial regions.

(b) The First Administrative Judicial Region is composed of the counties of [~~Anderson, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee,~~] Collin, Dallas, [~~Delta,~~] Ellis, Fannin, [~~Franklin,~~] Grayson, [~~Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Houston, Hunt,~~] Kaufman, and [~~Lamar, Marion, Morris, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rains, Red River,~~] Rockwall[~~, Rusk, Shelby, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood~~].

(c) The Second Administrative Judicial Region is composed

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1 of the counties of Angelina, Bastrop, [~~Brazoria,~~] Brazos, Burleson,
2 Chambers, [~~Fort Bend, Freestone, Galveston,~~] Grimes, Hardin,
3 [~~Harris,~~] Jasper, Jefferson, Lee, [~~Leon,~~] Liberty, [~~Limestone,~~]
4 Madison, [~~Matagorda,~~] Montgomery, Newton, Orange, Polk,
5 [~~Robertson, Sabine, San Augustine,~~] San Jacinto, Trinity, Tyler,
6 Walker, Waller, and Washington[~~, and Wharton~~].

7 (d) The Third Administrative Judicial Region is composed of
8 the counties of Austin, Bell, Blanco, Bosque, Burnet, Caldwell,
9 Colorado, Comal, Comanche, Coryell, Falls, Fayette, Gonzales,
10 Guadalupe, Hamilton, Hays, Hill, Lampasas, Lavaca, Llano,
11 McLennan, Milam, Navarro, Robertson, San Saba, Travis, and
12 Williamson.

13 (k) The Tenth Administrative Judicial Region is composed of
14 the counties of Anderson, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Delta,
15 Franklin, Freestone, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Houston,
16 Hunt, Lamar, Leon, Limestone, Marion, Morris, Nacogdoches, Panola,
17 Rains, Red River, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith,
18 Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood.

19 (l) The Eleventh Administrative Judicial Region is composed
20 of the counties of Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris,
21 Matagorda, and Wharton.

22 SECTION 3. Section 74.254(a), Government Code, is amended
23 to read as follows:

24 (a) The judicial committee for additional resources is
25 composed of:

- 26 (1) the chief justice of the supreme court; and
- 27 (2) the [~~nine~~] presiding judges of the administrative

1 judicial regions.

2 SECTION 4. (a) The Tenth and Eleventh Administrative
3 Judicial Regions are created on September 1, 2017.

4 (b) On September 1, 2017, the governor, with the advice and
5 consent of the senate, shall appoint judges to serve as presiding
6 judges in the Tenth and Eleventh Administrative Judicial Regions
7 and any administrative judicial region in which a vacancy in office
8 occurs because the presiding judge of a judicial region is no longer
9 qualified to serve as the presiding judge of the region because of
10 the composition of the region on that date.

11 (c) On September 1, 2017, the county in which a presiding
12 judge appointed under Subsection (b) of this section resides shall
13 provide adequate quarters for the operation of the applicable
14 administrative judicial region.

15 (d) Not later than September 1, 2017, the regional presiding
16 judges of the First through Ninth Administrative Judicial Regions:

17 (1) shall develop and adopt by majority vote budgets
18 for the Tenth and Eleventh Administrative Judicial Regions that
19 include an assessment for each county included in the area that will
20 comprise the new regions; and

21 (2) may by majority vote transfer money, as necessary,
22 from the existing judicial regions to the Tenth and Eleventh
23 Administrative Judicial Regions.

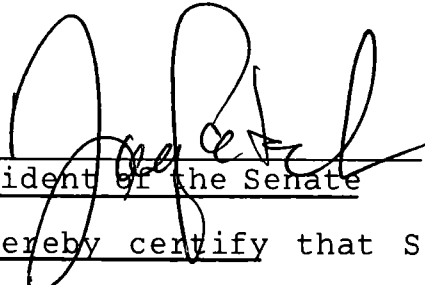
24 (e) A judge or associate judge or coordinator assigned or
25 appointed to a court in a county included in the First, Second,
26 Third, Tenth, or Eleventh Administrative Judicial Region on
27 September 1, 2017, continues to serve in that position until

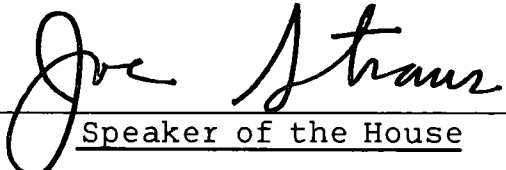
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1 removed by the regional presiding judge.

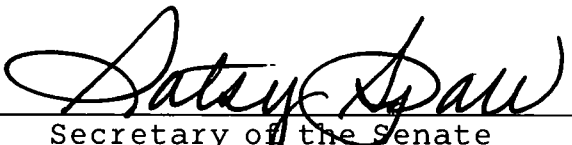
2 SECTION 5. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this
3 Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of
4 all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39,
5 Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the
6 vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect on the
7 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.

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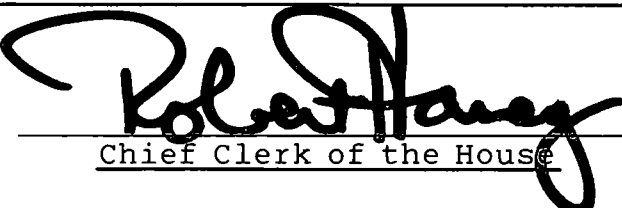

President of the Senate


Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1893 passed the Senate on May 4, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 26, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1. _____



Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1893 passed the House, with amendment, on May 22, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 145, Nays 1, one present not voting. _____



Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

6-12-2017
Date


Governor

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

JUN 15 2017

Secretary of State

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas**

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 22, 2017

TO: Honorable Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor, Senate

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB1893 by Birdwell (Relating to the administrative judicial regions in this state.), As
Passed 2nd House

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Government Code realigning the counties in the administrative judicial regions. Current law establishes nine regions, the bill would establish eleven regions. The bill would also require the Texas Judicial Council to collect information from each administrative judicial region regarding any business transacted by a presiding judge on a monthly basis.

According to the Office of Court Administration (OCA) no significant fiscal impact is anticipated to the state court system.

Local Government Impact

According to the OCA, counties are likely to see a slight increase in costs due to the realignment. The counties providing facilities for the additional regions could see an increase in costs. The cost will vary by county, but it is not anticipated to be significant.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council

LBB Staff: UP, LBO, GDz, AG, GG, BM

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas**

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 8, 2017

TO: Honorable John T. Smithee, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB1893 by Birdwell (Relating to the administrative judicial regions in this state.), As
Engrossed

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Government Code realigning the counties in the administrative judicial regions. Current law establishes nine regions, the bill would establish eleven regions. The bill would also require the Texas Judicial Council to collect information from each administrative judicial region regarding any business transacted by a presiding judge on a monthly basis.

According to the Office of Court Administration (OCA) no significant fiscal impact is anticipated to the state court system.

Local Government Impact

According to the OCA, counties are likely to see a slight increase in costs due to the realignment. The counties providing facilities for the additional regions could see an increase in costs. The cost will vary by county, but it is not anticipated to be significant.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council

LBB Staff: UP, LBO, GDz, AG, GG, BM

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas**

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 28, 2017

TO: Honorable Joan Huffman, Chair, Senate Committee on State Affairs

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB1893 by Birdwell (Relating to the administrative judicial regions in this state.),
Committee Report 1st House, Substituted

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Government Code realigning the counties in the administrative judicial regions. Current law establishes nine regions, the bill would establish eleven regions.

According to the Office of Court Administration (OCA) no significant fiscal impact is anticipated to the state court system.

Local Government Impact

According to the OCA, counties are likely to see a slight increase in costs due to the realignment. The counties providing facilities for the additional regions could see an increase in costs. The cost will vary by county, but it is not anticipated to be significant.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council

LBB Staff: UP, AG, GG, BM

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas**

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 23, 2017

TO: Honorable Joan Huffman, Chair, Senate Committee on State Affairs

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB1893 by Birdwell (Relating to the administrative judicial regions in this state.), **As Introduced**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Government Code realigning the counties in the administrative judicial regions. Current law establishes nine regions, the bill would establish thirteen regions.

According to the Office of Court Administration (OCA) no significant fiscal impact is anticipated to the state court system.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

Local Government Impact

According to the OCA, counties are likely to see a slight increase in costs due to the realignment. The counties providing facilities for the four additional regions could see an increase in costs. The cost will vary by county, but it is not anticipated to be significant.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council

LBB Staff: UP, AG, GG, BM