

Chapter 1114

H.B. No. 4281

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the 1st Multicounty County Court at Law.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 25.2702, Government Code, is amended by
5 amending Subsections (a) and (d) and adding Subsection (g) to read
6 as follows:

7 (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section
8 25.0003 and other law, the 1st Multicounty Court at Law has
9 concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:

10 (1) family law cases and proceedings; and

11 (2) felony criminal cases.

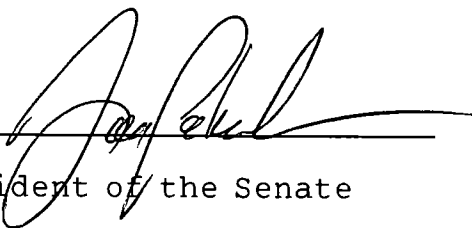
12 (d) The judge of the county court at law shall appoint an
13 official court reporter. The judge may appoint a court
14 administrator to aid the judge in the performance of the judge's
15 duties. The [An] official court reporter and the court
16 administrator of the county court at law are [is] entitled to
17 receive the same salary and to be paid in the same manner as the
18 official court reporter and court administrator, respectively, of
19 the district court in the administrative county for the court [a
20 ~~salary set by the commissioners courts in the counties the reporter~~
21 ~~serves to be paid out of the county treasuries, either by salary or~~
22 ~~by contract as set by the commissioners courts].~~ The clerk of the
23 court shall tax as costs, in each civil, criminal, and probate case
24 in which a record of any part of the evidence in the case is made by

1 the reporter, a stenographer's fee of \$25. The fee shall be paid in
2 the same manner as other costs in the case. The clerk collects the
3 fee and pays it into the general funds of the counties.

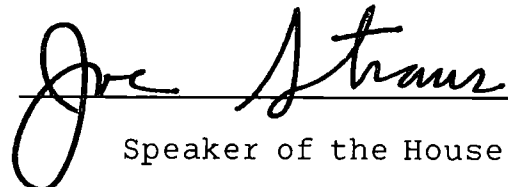
4 (g) The judge of the county court at law is entitled to
5 travel expenses and necessary office expenses as authorized by the
6 commissioners court of the administrative county.

7 SECTION 2. Section 3.07(b), Chapter 1182 (S.B. 1139), Acts
8 of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, which amends
9 Section 25.2701, Government Code, to be effective January 1, 2019,
10 is repealed.

11 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.




President of the Senate



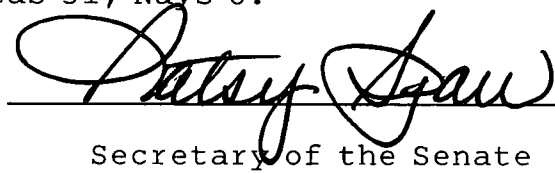
Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 4281 was passed by the House on May 19, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 3, 2 present, not voting.



Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 4281 was passed by the Senate on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.



Secretary of the Senate


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 Lois W. Kolkhorst, Chair, Senate Committee on Administration

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB4281 by Lambert (Relating to the 1st Multicounty County Court at Law.), As Engrossed

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Government Code as it applies to the 1st Multicounty Court at Law. The bill would extend the court's concurrent jurisdiction with the district court to reach felony cases. The bill would require the judge of the court to appoint an official court reporter, permit the judge to appoint a court administrator, and would set parameters for the salary of the court reporter and court administrator. The bill would allow the judge of the court to receive reimbursement for travel and office expenses. The bill would permit the judge of the district courts in Fisher, Mitchell, and Nolan Counties and the judge of the 1st Multicounty Court at Law to exchange benches. The bill would repeal the changes made by the Eighty Fourth Legislature which repealed Mitchell County from the 1st Multicounty Court at Law and which designated Nolan County as the administrative county for the court.

The Office of Court Administration has indicated that staffing and operating costs of statutory county courts are paid by local governments, so there would be no significant fiscal impact to the state.

Local Government Impact

According to the Texas Association of Counties, Fisher County reported it would cost an estimated \$25,000 per year to implement the provisions of the bill.

According to Nolan County, the bill would result in a significant, but indeterminate cost to the County.

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

LBB Staff: UP, KK, LBO, GDz, PBO, JGA

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas**

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 5, 2017

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

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB4281 by Lambert (Relating to the 1st Multicounty County Court at Law.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

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LBB Staff: UP, LBO, GDz, PBO, JGA

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 1, 2017

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

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB4281 by Lambert (Relating to the 1st Multicounty County Court at Law.), As
Introduced

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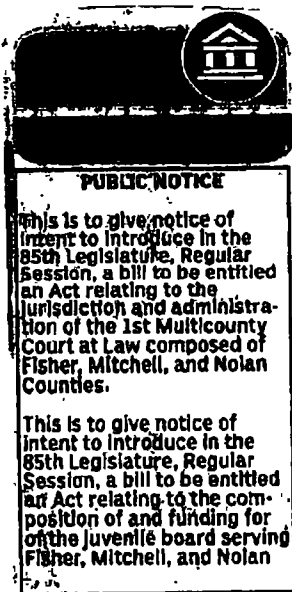
LBB Staff: UP, LBO, PBO, JGA

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS

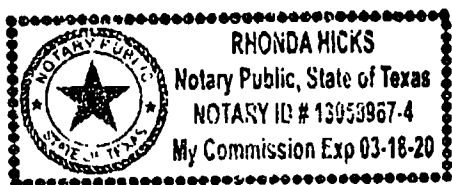
COUNTY OF TAYLOR

Before me, a notary public in and for Taylor County, this day personally appeared Lee Ann Hammit, Classifieds Manager, Abilene Reporter News, a daily newspaper published in said County and State that is generally circulated in Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Frath, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall and Taylor Counties, who, being duly sworn, states that the following is a true and correct copy of the advertisement published in the Abilene Reporter News on February 16th, 2017:



Lee Ann Hammit
Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME this 26 day of February, 2017.



Rhonda Hicks
Notary Public, State of Texas