

## CHAPTER 380

## H.B. No. 1215

An Act relating to the jurisdiction of the County Court at Law of Anderson County.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

**SECTION 1.** Section 2, Chapter 665, Acts of the 67th Legislature, Regular Session, 1981 (Article 1970-377, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 2. JURISDICTION.** (a) The County Court at Law of Anderson County has jurisdiction over all causes and proceedings, civil and criminal, juvenile and probate, original and appellate, prescribed by the constitution and general laws of the state for county courts. The county court at law has concurrent jurisdiction with the County Court of Anderson County in all probate matters. It does not have jurisdiction over causes and proceedings concerning roads, bridges, and public highways and the general administration of county business which is now within the jurisdiction of the Commissioners Court of Anderson County.

(b) The County Court at Law of Anderson County has jurisdiction concurrent with the district court in:

- (1) all probate matters and proceedings, including will contests;
- (2) eminent domain cases; and
- (3) ~~in~~ civil cases when the matter in controversy exceeds \$500 and does not exceed \$50,000, exclusive of interest.

(c) *The County Court at Law of Anderson County has concurrent jurisdiction with the county and district courts over all suits arising under the Family Code, including all matters, proceedings, and cases involving juveniles and children and including juvenile jurisdiction as provided by Chapter 178, Acts of the 66th Legislature, Regular Session, 1979 (Article 2338-1.1, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes).*

(d) In addition to the jurisdiction conferred on the County Court at Law of Anderson County by the other provisions of this Act, the county court at law has concurrent civil jurisdiction with the district courts in Anderson County in suits and causes involving family law matters, including adoptions; birth records; removal of disability of minority or coverture; change of name of persons; divorce and marriage annulment cases, including the adjustment of property rights, custody and support of minor children involved, temporary support pending final hearing, and every other matter incident to divorce or annulment proceedings; and independent actions involving child welfare, custody, support and reciprocal support, dependency, neglect, and delinquency; and independent actions involving controversies between parents, between parent and child, and between husband and wife. The provisions in this subsection do not diminish the jurisdiction of the district courts in Anderson County, and the district courts shall retain and continue to exercise the jurisdiction that is conferred by law on district courts.

(e) ~~[(d)]~~ The county court at law, or its judge, has the power to issue writs of injunction, mandamus, sequestration, attachment, garnishment, certiorari, supersedeas, and all writs necessary for the enforcement of the jurisdiction of the court. It may issue writs of habeas corpus in cases where the offense charged is within the jurisdiction of the court or of any other court of inferior jurisdiction in the county. The court and the judge have the power to punish for contempt as prescribed by law for county courts. The judge of the county court at law has all other powers, duties, immunities, and privileges provided by law for county court judges, except that such judge of the county court at law shall in no way have any authority over the administrative business of Anderson County which is now performed by the county judge of Anderson County.

**SECTION 2.** The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on April 25, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 17, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved: June 10, 1985

Effective: Immediately