

CHAPTER 247

H.B. No. 339

An Act relating to the jurisdiction of County Courts Nos. 1 and 2 of Galveston County and to the salaries of the judges of those courts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2(c), Chapter 269, Acts of the 59th Legislature, Regular Session, 1965 (Article 1970-342a, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

(c) In addition to the other jurisdiction granted in this section, the County Court No. 1 of Galveston County has jurisdiction concurrent with the district court in eminent domain cases and in civil cases when the matter in controversy exceeds \$500 and does not exceed \$50,000 [~~\$10,000~~], exclusive of interest. *The County Court No. 1 of Galveston County also has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in proceedings under Title 3 of the Family Code; in suits and causes involving family law matters, including adoption; 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 parent and child and between husband and wife. The County Court No. 1 of Galveston County has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in appeals of final rulings and decisions of the Industrial Accident Board, regardless of the amount in controversy. This subsection does not diminish the jurisdiction of the district courts in Galveston County; and the district courts retain the jurisdiction conferred by law on district courts.*

SECTION 2. Section 11(b), Chapter 269, Acts of the 59th Legislature, Regular Session, 1965 (Article 1970-342a, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

(b) The Commissioners Court of Galveston County shall fix the yearly salary of the Judge of the County Court No. 1 of Galveston County at a sum that is at least equal to the amount that is \$1,000 less than [not less than 90 percent of] the total salary, including supplements, paid the district judges [any District Judge] in and for Galveston County. The salary shall be paid to each Judge in equal monthly installments out of the General Fund of Galveston County, Texas, by warrants drawn upon the County Treasury upon orders of the Commissioners Court of Galveston County, Texas. *The Judge of the County Court No. 1 of Galveston County shall assess the fees prescribed by law for county judges and district judges according to the nature of the matter brought before them. The clerk shall collect the fees and pay them into the county treasury. A fee may not be paid to the judge.*

SECTION 3. Section 2(c), Chapter 133, Acts of the 65th Legislature, Regular Session, 1977 (Article 1970-342b, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

(c) In addition to the other jurisdiction granted in this section, the County Court No. 2 of Galveston County has jurisdiction concurrent with the district court in eminent domain cases and in civil cases when the matter in controversy exceeds \$500 and does not exceed \$50,000 [~~\$10,000~~], exclusive of interest. *The County Court No. 2 of Galveston County also has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in proceedings under Title 3 of the Family Code; in suits and causes involving family law matters, including adoption; 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 parent and child and between husband and wife. The County Court No. 2 of Galveston County has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in appeals of final rulings and decisions of the Industrial Accident Board, regardless of the amount in controversy. This subsection does not diminish the jurisdiction of the district courts in Galveston County; and the district courts retain the jurisdiction conferred by law on district courts.

SECTION 4. Section 11(b), Chapter 133, Acts of the 65th Legislature, Regular Session, 1977 (Article 1970-342b, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

(b) The Commissioners Court of Galveston County shall ~~may~~ fix the yearly salary of the judge of the County Court No. 2 of Galveston County at a sum that is at least equal to the amount that is \$1,000 less than the annual salary, including supplements, paid the district judges ~~[the same salary paid all judges of other county courts and the Probate and County Court]~~ of Galveston County. The salary shall be paid to each judge in equal monthly installments out of the General Fund of Galveston County by warrants drawn on the county treasury on orders of the Commissioners Court of Galveston County. *The judge of the County Court No. 2 of Galveston County shall assess the fees prescribed by law for county judges and the district judges according to the nature of the matter brought before them. The clerk shall collect the fees and pay them into the county treasury. A fee may not be paid to the judge.*

SECTION 5. Section 2(d), Chapter 269, Acts of the 59th Legislature, Regular Session, 1965 (Article 1970-342a, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as added by Section 6, Chapter 345, Acts of the 66th Legislature, Regular Session, 1979, is repealed.

SECTION 6. Section 2(d), Chapter 133, Acts of the 65th Legislature, Regular Session, 1977 (Article 1970-342b, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as added by Section 7, Chapter 345, Acts of the 66th Legislature, Regular Session, 1979, is repealed.

SECTION 7. 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.

Passed by the House on March 5, 1985, by a non-record vote ; passed by the Senate on May 15, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved: June 4, 1985

Effective: August 26, 1985