

CHAPTER 897

H.B. No. 1685

AN ACT

relating to jury fees for civil cases in certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 51, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 51.604 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.604. JURY FEE IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to counties with a population of two million or more.

(b) The district clerk shall collect a \$20 jury fee for each civil case in district court in which a person applies for a jury trial. The clerk of a county court or statutory county court shall collect a \$17 jury fee for each civil case in those courts in which a person applies for a jury trial. The clerk shall note the payment of the fee on the court's docket sheet.

(c) The fee required by this section must be paid by the person applying for a jury trial not later than the 10th day before the jury trial is scheduled to begin.

(d) The fee required by this section is in addition to the jury fee required by Rule 216, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, and any other fee allowed by law or rule.

SECTION 2. This Act applies only to fees for jury trial for cases for which a person applies for a jury trial on or after the effective date of this Act. The fees for jury trials for which the application was made before the effective date of this Act are governed by the law in existence on the date the application was made, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. 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 30, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting. Passed by the Senate on May 25, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 1987.

Effective June 19, 1987.