

CHAPTER 80

H.B. No. 254

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of branch offices of county clerks for the purpose of issuing marriage licenses.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 5, Title 33, Revised Statutes, is amended by adding Article 1605a-6 to read as follows:

Art. 1605a-6. BRANCH OFFICES OF COUNTY CLERKS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF MARRIAGE LICENSES

Sec. 1. On the request of the county clerk, the commissioners court of a county may provide by any means, operate, and maintain one or more branch offices at any place in the county for the county clerk for the purpose of issuing marriage licenses.

Sec. 2. If a branch office is provided under this article in a building that is owned by the county, the commissioners court shall operate and maintain the building in the same manner as it operates and maintains the county courthouse. The commissioners court shall have care and custody of the building and may place any limitations on the use and maintenance of the building that it finds necessary.

Sec. 3. (a) The county clerk may authorize one or more of the clerk's deputies to work in the branch office.

(b) A deputy who is appointed by the county clerk may take a marriage application from a person who desires to be licensed to be married and the deputy may issue a valid marriage license to qualified applicants.

(c) On a regular basis, as directed by the county clerk, a deputy at a branch office shall file all original records made at that office during the previous year with the county clerk's office at the county seat.

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 March 10, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate on April 30, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 12, 1987.

Effective 90 days after date of adjournment.