

By: N. Gonzalez of El Paso

H.B. No. 1598

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the jurisdiction of county and justice courts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 26.042(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A county court has concurrent jurisdiction with the justice courts in civil cases in which the matter in controversy exceeds \$200 in value but does not exceed \$15,000 [~~\$10,000~~], exclusive of interest.

SECTION 2. Section 27.031(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In addition to the jurisdiction and powers provided by the constitution and other law, the justice court has original jurisdiction of:

(1) civil matters in which exclusive jurisdiction is not in the district or county court and in which the amount in controversy is not more than \$15,000 [~~\$10,000~~], exclusive of interest;

(2) cases of forcible entry and detainer;

(3) foreclosure of mortgages and enforcement of liens on personal property in cases in which the amount in controversy is otherwise within the justice court's jurisdiction; and

(4) cases arising under Chapter 707, Transportation Code, outside a municipality's territorial limits.

1 SECTION 3. Section 27.060(a), Government Code, as effective
2 May 1, 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3 (a) A justice court shall conduct proceedings in a small
4 claims case, as that term is defined by the supreme court, in
5 accordance with rules of civil procedure promulgated by the supreme
6 court to ensure the fair, expeditious, and inexpensive resolution
7 of small claims cases. The definition of a small claims case must
8 provide that the amount in controversy for small claims cases is the
9 maximum amount established by Section 27.031(a)(1).

10 SECTION 4. Not later than October 1, 2013, the Supreme Court
11 of Texas shall adopt the rules necessary to implement the changes in
12 law made by this Act.

13 SECTION 5. This Act applies only to a cause of action filed
14 on or after October 1, 2013. A cause of action filed before that
15 date is governed by the law in effect immediately before that date,
16 and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

17 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.