

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 387
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed November 18, 2024; February 3, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Jurisprudence;
1-4 April 7, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 4,
1-5 Nays 0; April 7, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	Hughes	X			
1-9	Johnson	X			
1-10	Creighton			X	
1-11	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	X			
1-12	Middleton	X			

1-13 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-14 AN ACT

1-15 relating to bond requirements for certain judges.

1-16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-17 SECTION 1. Sections 25.0006(a-1) and (a-4), Government
1-18 Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-19 (a-1) Before beginning the duties of the office, the judge
1-20 of a statutory county court must execute a bond that:

1-21 (1) is payable to the treasurer of the county;

1-22 (2) is in the amount set by the commissioners court of:

1-23 (A) subject to Paragraph (B), not less than
1-24 \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000; or

1-25 (B) for a judge presiding in the court over
1-26 guardianship proceedings, as defined by Section 1002.015, Estates
1-27 Code, or over probate proceedings, as defined by Section 22.029,
1-28 Estates Code, not less than \$500,000[+;

1-29 ~~[(i) \$100,000 for a court in a county with a~~
1-30 ~~population of 125,000 or less; or~~

1-31 ~~[(ii) \$250,000 for a court in a county with~~
1-32 ~~a population of more than 125,000]; and~~

1-33 (3) is conditioned that the judge will:

1-34 (A) faithfully perform all duties of office; and

1-35 (B) for a judge presiding in the court over
1-36 guardianship or probate proceedings, perform the duties required by
1-37 the Estates Code.

1-38 (a-4) This section does not apply to:

1-39 (1) ~~[a judge of a statutory county court who does not~~
1-40 ~~preside over guardianship proceedings, as defined by Section~~
1-41 ~~1002.015, Estates Code,~~

1-42 ~~[(2)] a judge of a statutory probate court who~~
1-43 ~~executes a bond, obtains insurance, or self-insures pursuant to~~
1-44 ~~Section 25.00231; or~~

1-45 ~~(2) [(3)] a judge who presides over a county criminal~~
1-46 ~~court.~~

1-47 SECTION 2. Section 26.001(a), Government Code, is amended
1-48 to read as follows:

1-49 (a) Before beginning the duties of the office, the county
1-50 judge must execute a bond that:

1-51 (1) is payable to the treasurer of the county;

1-52 (2) is in the amount set by the commissioners court of:

1-53 (A) subject to Paragraph (B), not less than
1-54 \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000; or

1-55 (B) for a county judge presiding in the county
1-56 court over guardianship proceedings, as defined by Section
1-57 1002.015, Estates Code, or over probate proceedings, as defined by
1-58 Section 22.029, Estates Code, not less than \$500,000[+;

1-59 ~~[(i) \$100,000 for a court in a county with a~~
1-60 ~~population of 125,000 or less; or~~

1-61 ~~[(ii) \$250,000 for a court in a county with~~

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