

Jurisdiction of County Court of Titus County

HB 4685 by Homer (Eltife)

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DIGEST: HB 4685 would have allowed the judges of the district court and the county court of Titus County to enter into an agreement granting the county court jurisdiction to hear:

- guilty pleas in felony cases;
- default judgments;
- uncontested civil and family law cases in which a final judgment would be entered; and
- civil and family law cases in which an agreed final judgment would be entered.

**GOVERNOR'S
REASON FOR
VETO:**

“House Bill No. 4685 violates Art. 5, Sec. 16 of the Texas Constitution by attempting to provide additional jurisdiction to the Titus County Court through an agreement between the county court judge and district court judge. Under the Texas Constitution, jurisdiction can be transferred only by state law and not by agreements between judges.”

RESPONSE:

Rep. Mark Homer, the bill’s author, said: “Although served by two district courts, Titus County has periods throughout the year when neither court is hearing cases in the county. It was my intent to increase the efficiency of the legal system in Titus County without the added expense of a county court at law. HB 4685 was written to provide the statutory authorization for the transfer of jurisdiction in four specified areas to the county court if such arrangement was agreeable to the district courts.”

Sen. Kevin Eltife, the Senate sponsor, had no comment on the veto.

NOTES:

HB 4685 passed the House on the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar on May 15 and was not analyzed in a *Daily Floor Report*.