

- SUBJECT:** Reorganizing administrative judicial regions
- COMMITTEE:** Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Smithee, Farrar, Gutierrez, Hernandez, Laubenberg, Murr, Neave, Rinaldi, Schofield
- 0 nays
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, May 4 — 30-1 (Creighton)
- WITNESSES:** No public hearing
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised about the increased workloads for certain administrative judicial regions and that some district courts are split between regions, resulting in two different presiding judges for a single court.
- DIGEST:** SB 1893 would create the Tenth and Eleventh Administrative Judicial regions, and add Robertson County to the Third Administrative Judicial Region.
- The Tenth Administrative Judicial Region would be composed of Anderson, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Freestone, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Houston, Hunt, Lamar, Leon, Limestone, Marion, Morris, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood counties.
- The Eleventh Administrative Judicial Region would be composed of of Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Matagorda, and Wharton counties.
- On September 1, 2017, the governor would appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, presiding judges for the Tenth and Eleventh Administrative Judicial regions, as well as any region for which a vacancy was created by the realignment.

The presiding judges of the First through Ninth regions would be required to develop and adopt budgets for the Tenth and Eleventh regions that included an assessment for each county included in the new regions. By a majority vote, the presiding judges could transfer money to the Tenth and Eleventh regions as necessary.

The bill also would require councils to collect judicial statistics and other pertinent information about the amount and character of any business transacted by the presiding judges. Presiding judges would be required to report monthly such information.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.