

SUBJECT: Updating the population requirement for the location of certain courts

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Coleman, Stucky, Anderson, Cason, Longoria, Spiller,
Stephenson, J. Turner

0 nays

1 absent — Lopez

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Local Government Code sec. 292.001(d) allows a justice of the peace court to be housed or conducted in a building located outside the court's precinct if the court is situated in the county courthouse in a county with a population of at least 275,000 but no more than 285,000.

It has been noted that the population of Lubbock County is outgrowing the statutory bracket that allows a justice of the peace court to operate in the county's courthouse even if the courthouse is outside of the justice of the peace court's precinct.

DIGEST: HB 3354 would allow a justice of the peace court to be housed or conducted in a building located outside the court's precinct if the court was situated in the county courthouse of a county with a population of at least 305,000 and that had its county seat located in the Llano Estacado region of the state (Lubbock County).

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021