

SUBJECT:	Revising provisions related to a visiting judge in certain counties
COMMITTEE:	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended
VOTE:	8 ayes — Leach, Julie Johnson, Flores, Moody, Murr, Schofield, Slawson, Vasut  0 nays  1 absent — Davis
WITNESSES:	For — Byron Ryder, County Judges and Commissioners Association and Leon County ( <i>Registered, but did not testify</i> : Guy Herman, Statutory Probate Courts of Texas; Trey Duhon, Waller County)  Against — None
BACKGROUND:	Some have suggested that a former constitutional county judge could serve as a resource in a counties that have difficulty identifying a candidate qualified to serve as a visiting judge.
DIGEST:	CSHB 103 would allow a county judge in certain counties to appoint a former constitutional county judge as a visiting judge when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the county judge was absent from the county or absent due to physical incapacity; or</li><li>• when the county judge found that the dockets of the county court reflected a case load that the county judge considered to be in excess of what the county judge could dispose of in a manner consistent with an efficient administration of justice.</li></ul> A former constitutional county judge would be defined as a person who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• served as a judge in a constitutional county court for at least 96 months; or</li></ul>

- served as a judge in a constitutional county court for at least 48 months and was an attorney licensed in Texas.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.