

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 1688
By: Kuempel (Patterson)
Jurisprudence
5-9-97
Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, the Guadalupe County Court at Law does not have jurisdiction over family law cases and juvenile matters. This bill will grant the court jurisdiction over family law cases and proceedings, and set forth regulations regarding the administration of the court.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 1688 grants the Guadalupe County Court at Law jurisdiction over family law cases and proceedings, and sets forth regulations regarding the administration of the court.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 25.0962, Government Code, by adding Subsections (b) and (i) and amending Subsection (f), to provide that a county court at law in Guadalupe County has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in family law cases and proceedings including juvenile matters, in addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003. Requires practice and procedure, rules of evidence, issuance of process and writs, and all other matters pertaining to the conduct of trials and hearings in a county court at law involving cases in the court's concurrent jurisdiction with the district court to be governed by this section and the laws and rules pertaining to district courts as well as county courts. Requires the jury to be composed of 12 members if a case in the court's concurrent jurisdiction with the district court is tried before a jury. Provides that the district clerk serves as clerk of a county court at law in matters of concurrent jurisdiction with the district court, and the county clerk shall serve as clerk of a county court at law in all other cases.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.