

SUBJECT: Authorizing certain counties to collect court reporter service fees

COMMITTEE: Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Leach, Farrar, Y. Davis, Julie Johnson, Krause, Meyer, Neave, Smith, White

0 nays

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Government Code 51.601 requires the clerk of each court with an official court reporter to collect a court reporter service fee of \$15 as a court cost in each filed civil case. Counties that are located on the Texas-Mexico border that contain a municipality with a population of 500,000 or more (El Paso County) are required to collect a court reporter service fee of \$30 as a court cost in each civil case.

DIGEST: HB 3361 would require the clerk of each court that had an official court reporter and that served a county with a population of 750,000 or more and located on the Texas-Mexico border (El Paso County and Hidalgo County) to collect a court reporter service fee of \$30 as a court cost in each filed civil case.

The 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, 2019, and would apply only to cases filed with the clerk of a court that had an official court reporter on or after that date.