CHAPTER 391

H.B. No. 1682

AN ACT relating to the creation of a county court at law in Navarro County.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 25.1771 and 25.1772 to read as follows:

Sec. 25.1771. NAVARRO COUNTY. Navarro County has one statutory county court, the County Court at Law of Navarro County.

Sec. 25.1772. NAVARRO COUNTY COURT AT LAW PROVISIONS. (a) In addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and other law, and except as limited by Subsection (b), a county court at law in Navarro County has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in:

(1) felony cases to:
   (A) conduct arraignments;
   (B) conduct pretrial hearings;
   (C) accept guilty pleas; and
   (D) conduct jury trials on assignment of a district judge presiding in Navarro County and acceptance of the assignment by the judge of the county court at law;
(2) Class A and Class B misdemeanor cases;
(3) family law matters;
(4) juvenile matters;
(5) probate matters; and
(6) appeals from the justice and municipal courts.

(b) A county court at law does not have general supervisory control or appellate review of the commissioners court or jurisdiction of:

(1) suits on behalf of this state to recover penalties or escheated property;
(2) felony cases involving capital murder;
(3) misdemeanors involving official misconduct; or
(4) contested elections.

(c) The judge of a county court at law must have the same qualifications as those required by law for a district judge.

(d) The judge of a county court at law shall be paid a total annual salary set by the commissioners court at an amount that is not less than $1,000 less than the total annual salary received by a district judge in the county. A district judge’s or statutory county court judge’s total annual salary does not include contributions and supplements paid by a county.

(e) The judge of a county court at law may not engage in the private practice of law.

(f) 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 matters. Each clerk shall establish a separate docket for a county court at law.

(g) The official court reporter of a county court at law is entitled to receive a salary set by the judge of the county court at law with the approval of the commissioners court.

(h) Jurors summoned for a county court at law or a district court in the county may by order of the judge of the court to which they are summoned be transferred to another court for service and may be used as if summoned for the court to which they are transferred.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding Section 25.1771, Government Code, as added by this Act, the County Court at Law of Navarro County is created January 1, 2011, or on an earlier date.
determined by the Commissioners Court of Navarro County by an order entered in its minutes.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on April 22, 2009: Yeas 149, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 20, 2009: Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.

Effective September 1, 2009.

CHAPTER 392

H.B. No. 1691

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 14; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds; granting a limited power of eminent domain.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subtitle F, Title 6, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Chapter 8351 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 8351. WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 14

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 8351.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) “Board” means the district’s board of directors.

(2) “Director” means a board member.

(3) “District” means the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 14.

Sec. 8351.002. NATURE OF DISTRICT. The district is a municipal utility district created under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

Sec. 8351.003. CONFIRMATION AND DIRECTORS’ ELECTION REQUIRED. The temporary directors shall hold an election to confirm the creation of the district and to elect five permanent directors as provided by Section 49.102, Water Code.

Sec. 8351.004. FINDINGS OF PUBLIC PURPOSE AND BENEFIT. (a) The district is created to serve a public purpose and benefit.

(b) The district is created to accomplish the purposes of:

(1) a municipal utility district as provided by general law and Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution; and

(2) Section 52, Article III, Texas Constitution, that relate to the construction, acquisition, or improvement of macadamized, graveled, or paved roads described by Section 54.234, Water Code, or improvements, including storm drainage, in aid of those roads.

Sec. 8351.005. INITIAL DISTRICT TERRITORY. (a) The district is initially composed of the territory described by Section 2 of the Act creating this chapter.

(b) The boundaries and field notes contained in Section 2 of the Act creating this chapter form a closure. A mistake made in the field notes or in copying the field notes in the legislative process does not affect the district’s:

(1) organization, existence, or validity;

(2) right to issue any type of bond for the purposes for which the district is created or to pay the principal of and interest on a bond;

(3) right to impose a tax; or

(4) legality or operation.