

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R3939 KLA-D

H.B. 2167
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Intergovernmental Relations
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Travis County Court at Law Number 4 was established in 1999 as a special court to handle misdemeanor family violence criminal cases and protective orders. In the same year, the penalty for a second family violence assault was increased to a felony of the third degree. Consequently, cases that would otherwise have been handled in County Court at Law Number 4 of Travis County were randomly assigned to criminal district courts in Travis County. In addition, County Court at Law Number 4 of Travis County issues protective orders. A primary concept of the domestic violence court is for the same court to hear any alleged criminal violations of protective orders that it has granted. Currently, County Court at Law Number 4 of Travis County hears all violations of protective orders except those violated by assault or stalking, which is also a felony of the third degree. H.B. 2167 grants County Court at Law Number 4 of Travis County concurrent jurisdiction for family violence related felonies of the third degree.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 25.2292(c), Government Code, to provide that, in addition to the jurisdiction provided by Section 25.0003 and other law, the County Court at Law Number 4 of Travis County has concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in state jail felony and third degree felony cases involving family violence, as defined by Section 71.004, Family Code. Requires the court to give preference to cases in which family violence is alleged, including cases under Title 4 (rather than Chapter 71), Family Code.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2001.