

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
77R4966 YDB-F

S.B. 683  
By: Shapleigh  
Jurisprudence  
3/29/2001  
As Filed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Currently, El Paso County courts are experiencing a backlog of criminal misdemeanor cases. As proposed, S.B. 683 creates two additional county criminal courts designated solely to handle criminal misdemeanor cases to help reduce the backlog. One of the new courts is granted exclusive jurisdiction over environmental offenses.

### **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 25.0731(a), Government Code, to add County Criminal Courts at Law No. 1 and No. 2 of El Paso County, Texas, to the list of statutory county courts in El Paso County.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 25.0732, Government Code, to authorize a judge of a statutory county court in El Paso County and a judge of a district court or another statutory county court in El Paso County, in matters of concurrent jurisdiction, to transfer cases between the courts in the same manner judges of district courts transfer cases under Section 24.303. Authorizes a judge of a statutory county court and a judge of a district court in El Paso County to exchange benches and to sit and act for each other in any matter pending before the court. Requires the El Paso Council of Judges to order the transfer of criminal misdemeanor cases to the County Criminal Courts No. 1 and No. 2 from time to time to equalize the criminal misdemeanor dockets of the statutory county courts for the efficient operation of the court system and the effective administration of justice. Requires the County Criminal Courts No. 1 and No. 2 to give preference to criminal law matters. Provides the County Criminal Court No. 1 with exclusive jurisdiction over environmental offenses.

SECTION 3. Effective date: January 1, 2002.