

TO AMEND TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE, TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL PLACE FOR HOLDING COURT FOR THE PECOS DIVISION OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

NOVEMBER 13, 2023.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. JORDAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary,  
submitted the following

## R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 786]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 786) to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Pecos Division of the Western District of Texas, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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## Purpose and Summary

H.R. 786, introduced by Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-TX), amends title 28, United States Code, to provide additional places for holding

court in the Western District of Texas and the Western District of Washington.

### **Background and Need for the Legislation**

Pursuant to federal statute, the state of Texas is divided into four judicial districts, the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas, and the state of Washington is divided into two judicial districts, the Eastern and Western Districts of Washington.<sup>1</sup> Currently, the Western District of Texas is only authorized to hold court in Austin, Waco, El Paso, San Antonio, Del Rio, Pecos, and Midland, Texas, as well as Odessa, Texas, in certain circumstances.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, the Western District of Washington is only authorized to hold court in Bellingham, Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver, Washington.<sup>3</sup>

In 2018, the Judicial Conference of the United States adopted a legislative proposal recommending that Congress add Mount Vernon, Washington, as an additional location for holding court in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington.<sup>4</sup> According to the Judicial Conference, adding Mount Vernon as a location for holding court would allow the court to move “its monthly Central Violations Bureau proceedings from Bellingham to Mount Vernon, a closer location to the vast majority of defendants, witnesses, agents, and attorneys who come to court.”<sup>5</sup> Additionally, the Judicial Conference elaborated that this proposal is a “minor, cost-free change that would result in increased convenience for the parties and decreased administrative costs for the court.”<sup>6</sup>

Similarly, in 2022, the Judicial Conference adopted a legislative proposal recommending that Congress add Alpine, Texas, as an additional location for holding court in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas.<sup>7</sup> A courthouse already exists in Alpine, which is currently used by a full-time magistrate judge as well as “the magistrate judge’s staff . . . the Clerk’s office, Probation, Pre-trial Services and the U.S. Marshals Service.”<sup>8</sup> The Judicial Conference noted that “Alpine is also more convenient for the litigants and the public who currently drive approximately 102 miles to the Pecos courthouse to conduct court business.”<sup>9</sup> Additionally, the Judicial Conference reported that “filings in the Pecos Division continue to steadily increase,”<sup>10</sup> which indicates that an additional location would be beneficial for judicial resources.

The Senate companion to this bill, S. 227, passed the Senate by unanimous consent on February 28, 2023.<sup>11</sup> Previous versions of this bill were introduced as H.R. 3034 in the 117th Congress, which was passed by the House on suspension of the rules,<sup>12</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> 28 U.S.C. §§ 124, 128.

<sup>2</sup> 28 U.S.C. § 124(d).

<sup>3</sup> 28 U.S.C. § 128(b).

<sup>4</sup> Letter from James C. Duff, Sec'y, Judicial Conference of the U.S. to Rep. Bob Goodlatte, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Nov. 9, 2018) (on file with the Committee).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Letter from Roslynn R. Mauskopf, Sec'y, Judicial Conference of the U.S. to Sen. Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member, S. Comm. on the Judiciary (Nov. 1, 2022) (on file with the Committee).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> S. 227, 118th Cong. (2023).

<sup>12</sup> H.R. 3034, 117th Cong. (2021).

H.R. 3713 in the 116th Congress, which was favorably reported out of the Judiciary Committee by voice vote.<sup>13</sup>

### **Hearings**

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6)(A) of House rule XIII, the Committee states that no hearings were held to assist in the formulation of H.R. 786.

### **Committee Consideration**

On September 28, 2023, the Committee met in open session and ordered the bill, H.R. 786, favorably reported by voice vote, a quorum being present.

### **Committee Votes**

In compliance with clause 3(b) of House rule XIII, the Committee states that no roll call votes were taken during consideration of H.R. 786.

### **Committee Oversight Findings**

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of House rule XIII, the Committee advises that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

### **New Budget Authority and Tax Expenditures**

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply where a cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974* has been timely submitted prior to filing of the report and is included in the report. Such a cost estimate is included in this report.

### **Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate**

With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974*, the Committee has received the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 786 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

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<sup>13</sup> H.R. 3713, 116th Cong. (2019).

<b>H.R. 786, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Pecos Division of the Western District of Texas, and for other purposes</b>			
<b>As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on September 28, 2023</b>			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2028	2024-2033
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Mandate Effects Contains intergovernmental mandate? Contains private-sector mandate?	No No

\* = between zero and \$500,000.

H.R. 786 would authorize certain federal courts in the states of Texas and Washington to hold proceedings in additional cities within their respective districts.

Specifically, the bill would allow courts in the Pecos Division of the Western District of Texas to hold proceedings in the city of Alpine. Under current law, those proceedings are held in the city of Pecos. In addition, the bill would authorize federal courts in the Western District of Washington to hold proceedings in the city of Mount Vernon. Under current law, those proceedings are held in the cities of Bellingham, Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver.

Using information from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts about current operating costs for those courts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2024–2028 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jon Sperl. The estimate was reviewed by Emily Stern, Senior Adviser for Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,  
*Director, Congressional Budget Office.*

### Committee Estimate of Budgetary Effects

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974*.

### Duplication of Federal Programs

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of House rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 786 establishes or reauthorizes a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another federal program.

### **Performance Goals and Objectives**

The Committee states that pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of House rule XIII, H.R. 786 provides additional places for holding court in the Western District of Texas and the Western District of Washington.

### **Advisory on Earmarks**

In accordance with clause 9 of House rule XXI, H.R. 786 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clauses 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of House Rule XXI.

### **Federal Mandates Statement**

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the *Unfunded Mandates Reform Act*.

### **Advisory Committee Statement**

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the *Federal Advisory Committee Act* were created by this legislation.

### **Applicability to Legislative Branch**

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the *Congressional Accountability Act* (Pub. L. 104-1).

### **Section-by-Section Analysis**

*Section 1: Additional Places for Holding Court:* Amends 28 U.S.C. § 124(d)(6) and § 128(b) to add Alpine, Texas, and Mount Vernon, Washington, as places for holding court in the Western District of Texas and the Western District of Washington, respectively.

### **Changes in Existing Law Made by the Bill, as Reported**

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (new matter is printed in italics and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

## **TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **PART I—ORGANIZATION OF COURTS**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **CHAPTER 5—DISTRICT COURTS**

\* \* \* \* \*

### **§ 124. Texas**

Texas is divided into four judicial districts to be known as the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas.

#### Northern District

(a) The Northern District comprises seven divisions.

(1) The Dallas Division comprises the counties of Dallas, Ellis, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, and Rockwall.

Court for the Dallas Division shall be held at Dallas.

(2) The Fort Worth Division comprises the counties of Comanche, Erath, Hood, Jack, Palo Pinto, Parker, Tarrant, and Wise.

Court for the Fort Worth Division shall be held at Fort Worth.

(3) The Abilene Division comprises the counties of Callahan, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Howard, Jones, Mitchell, Nolan, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, and Throckmorton.

Court for the Abilene Division shall be held at Abilene.

(4) The San Angelo Division comprises the counties of Brown, Coke, Coleman, Concho, Crockett, Glasscock, Irion, Menard, Mills, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, and Tom Green.

Court for the San Angelo Division shall be held at San Angelo.

(5) The Amarillo Division comprises the counties of Armstrong, Brisco, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, and Wheeler.

Court for the Amarillo Division shall be held at Amarillo.

(6) The Wichita Falls Division comprises the counties of Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, King, Knox, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young.

Court for the Wichita Falls Division shall be held at Wichita Falls.

(7) The Lubbock Division comprises the counties of Bailey, Borden, Cochran, Crosby, Dawson, Dickens, Floyd, Gaines, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Kent, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Scurry, Terry, and Yoakum.

Court for the Lubbock Division shall be held at Lubbock.

#### Southern District

(b) The Southern District comprises seven divisions.

(1) The Galveston Division comprises the counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, and Matagorda.

Court for the Galveston Division shall be held at Galveston.

(2) The Houston Division comprises the counties of Austin, Brazos, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Grimes, Harris, Madison, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

Court for the Houston Division shall be held at Houston.

(3) The Laredo Division comprises the counties of Jim Hogg, La Salle, McMullen, Webb, and Zapata.

Court for the Laredo Division shall be held at Laredo.

(4) The Brownsville Division comprises the counties of Cameron and Willacy.

Court for the Brownsville Division shall be held at Brownsville.

(5) The Victoria Division comprises the counties of Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Refugio, and Victoria.

Court for the Victoria Division shall be held at Victoria.

(6) The Corpus Christi Division comprises the counties of Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, and San Patricio.

Court for the Corpus Christi Division shall be held at Corpus Christi.

(7) The McAllen Division comprises the counties of Hidalgo and Starr.

Court for the McAllen Division shall be held at McAllen.

Eastern District

(c) The Eastern District comprises seven divisions.

(1) The Tyler Division comprises the counties of Anderson, Cherokee, Gregg, Henderson, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Van Zandt, and Wood.

Court for Tyler Division will be held at Tyler.

(2) The Beaumont Division comprises the counties of Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Newton, and Orange.

Court for the Beaumont Division is to be held at Beaumont.

(3) The Sherman Division comprises the counties of Collin, Cook, Delta, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Hopkins, and Lamar.

Court for the Sherman Division shall be held at Sherman and Plano.

(4) The Marshall Division comprises the counties of Camp, Cass, Harrison, Marion, Morris, and Upshur.

Court for the Marshall Division shall be held at Marshall.

(5) The Texarkana Division comprises the counties of Bowie, Franklin, Red River, and Titus.

Court for the Texarkana Division shall be held at Texarkana, and may be held anywhere within the Federal courthouse in Texarkana that is located astride the State line between Texas and Arkansas.

(6) The Lufkin Division comprises the counties of Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler.

Court for the Lufkin Division shall be held at Lufkin.

Western District

(d) The Western District comprises seven divisions.

(1) The Austin Division comprises the counties of Bastrop, Blanco, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Gillespie, Hays, Kimble, Lampasas, Lee, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, San Saba, Travis, Washington, and Williamson.

Court for the Austin Division shall be held at Austin.

(2) The Waco Division comprises the counties of Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Freestone, Hamilton, Hill, Leon, Limestone, McLennan, Milam, Robertson, and Somervell.

Court for the Waco Division shall be held at Waco.

(3) The El Paso Division comprises the county of El Paso.

Court for the El Paso Division shall be held at El Paso.

(4) The San Antonio Division comprises the counties of Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Dimmit, Frio, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, Real, and Wilson.

Court for the San Antonio Division shall be held at San Antonio.

(5) The Del Rio Division comprises the counties of Edwards, Kinney, Maverick, Terrell, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Zavalla.

Court for the Del Rio Division shall be held at Del Rio.

(6) The Pecos Division comprises the counties of Brewster, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Hudspeth, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Ward, and Winkler.

Court for the Pecos and Alpine Division shall be held at Pecos.

(7) The Midland-Odessa Division comprises the counties of Andrews, Crane, Ector, Martin, Midland, and Upton.

Court for the Midland-Odessa Division shall be held at Midland. Court may be held, in the discretion of the court, in Odessa, when courtroom facilities are made available at no expense to the Government.

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### **§ 128. Washington**

Washington is divided into two judicial districts to be known as the Eastern and Western Districts of Washington.

#### **Eastern District**

(a) The Eastern District comprises the counties of Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima.

Court for the Eastern District shall be held at Spokane, Yakima, Walla Walla, and Richland.

#### **Western District**

(b) The Western District comprises the counties of Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom.

Court for the Western District shall be held at Bellingham, Seattle, Tacoma, Mount Vernon, and Vancouver.



TO AMEND TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE, TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL PLACE FOR HOLDING COURT FOR THE PECOS DIVISION OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Mr. JORDAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary,  
submitted the following

## R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 786]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 786) to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Pecos Division of the Western District of Texas, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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## Purpose and Summary

H.R. 786, introduced by Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-TX), amends title 28, United States Code, to provide additional places for holding

court in the Western District of Texas and the Western District of Washington.

### **Background and Need for the Legislation**

Pursuant to federal statute, the state of Texas is divided into four judicial districts, the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas, and the state of Washington is divided into two judicial districts, the Eastern and Western Districts of Washington.<sup>1</sup> Currently, the Western District of Texas is only authorized to hold court in Austin, Waco, El Paso, San Antonio, Del Rio, Pecos, and Midland, Texas, as well as Odessa, Texas, in certain circumstances.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, the Western District of Washington is only authorized to hold court in Bellingham, Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver, Washington.<sup>3</sup>

In 2018, the Judicial Conference of the United States adopted a legislative proposal recommending that Congress add Mount Vernon, Washington, as an additional location for holding court in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington.<sup>4</sup> According to the Judicial Conference, adding Mount Vernon as a location for holding court would allow the court to move “its monthly Central Violations Bureau proceedings from Bellingham to Mount Vernon, a closer location to the vast majority of defendants, witnesses, agents, and attorneys who come to court.”<sup>5</sup> Additionally, the Judicial Conference elaborated that this proposal is a “minor, cost-free change that would result in increased convenience for the parties and decreased administrative costs for the court.”<sup>6</sup>

Similarly, in 2022, the Judicial Conference adopted a legislative proposal recommending that Congress add Alpine, Texas, as an additional location for holding court in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas.<sup>7</sup> A courthouse already exists in Alpine, which is currently used by a full-time magistrate judge as well as “the magistrate judge’s staff . . . the Clerk’s office, Probation, Pre-trial Services and the U.S. Marshals Service.”<sup>8</sup> The Judicial Conference noted that “Alpine is also more convenient for the litigants and the public who currently drive approximately 102 miles to the Pecos courthouse to conduct court business.”<sup>9</sup> Additionally, the Judicial Conference reported that “filings in the Pecos Division continue to steadily increase,”<sup>10</sup> which indicates that an additional location would be beneficial for judicial resources.

The Senate companion to this bill, S. 227, passed the Senate by unanimous consent on February 28, 2023.<sup>11</sup> Previous versions of this bill were introduced as H.R. 3034 in the 117th Congress, which was passed by the House on suspension of the rules,<sup>12</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> 28 U.S.C. §§ 124, 128.

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

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H.R. 3713 in the 116th Congress, which was favorably reported out of the Judiciary Committee by voice vote.<sup>13</sup>

### **Hearings**

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6)(A) of House rule XIII, the Committee states that no hearings were held to assist in the formulation of H.R. 786.

### **Committee Consideration**

On September 28, 2023, the Committee met in open session and ordered the bill, H.R. 786, favorably reported by voice vote, a quorum being present.

### **Committee Votes**

In compliance with clause 3(b) of House rule XIII, the Committee states that no roll call votes were taken during consideration of H.R. 786.

### **Committee Oversight Findings**

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of House rule XIII, the Committee advises that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

### **New Budget Authority and Tax Expenditures**

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply where a cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974* has been timely submitted prior to filing of the report and is included in the report. Such a cost estimate is included in this report.

### **Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate**

With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974*, the Committee has received the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 786 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

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<sup>13</sup> H.R. 3713, 116th Cong. (2019).

<b>H.R. 786, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Pecos Division of the Western District of Texas, and for other purposes</b>			
<b>As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on September 28, 2023</b>			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2028	2024-2033
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Mandate Effects Contains intergovernmental mandate? Contains private-sector mandate?	No No

\* = between zero and \$500,000.

H.R. 786 would authorize certain federal courts in the states of Texas and Washington to hold proceedings in additional cities within their respective districts.

Specifically, the bill would allow courts in the Pecos Division of the Western District of Texas to hold proceedings in the city of Alpine. Under current law, those proceedings are held in the city of Pecos. In addition, the bill would authorize federal courts in the Western District of Washington to hold proceedings in the city of Mount Vernon. Under current law, those proceedings are held in the cities of Bellingham, Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver.

Using information from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts about current operating costs for those courts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2024–2028 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jon Sperl. The estimate was reviewed by Emily Stern, Senior Adviser for Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,  
*Director, Congressional Budget Office.*

### Committee Estimate of Budgetary Effects

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974*.

### Duplication of Federal Programs

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of House rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 786 establishes or reauthorizes a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another federal program.

### **Performance Goals and Objectives**

The Committee states that pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of House rule XIII, H.R. 786 provides additional places for holding court in the Western District of Texas and the Western District of Washington.

### **Advisory on Earmarks**

In accordance with clause 9 of House rule XXI, H.R. 786 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clauses 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of House Rule XXI.

### **Federal Mandates Statement**

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the *Unfunded Mandates Reform Act*.

### **Advisory Committee Statement**

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the *Federal Advisory Committee Act* were created by this legislation.

### **Applicability to Legislative Branch**

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the *Congressional Accountability Act* (Pub. L. 104-1).

### **Section-by-Section Analysis**

*Section 1: Additional Places for Holding Court:* Amends 28 U.S.C. § 124(d)(6) and § 128(b) to add Alpine, Texas, and Mount Vernon, Washington, as places for holding court in the Western District of Texas and the Western District of Washington, respectively.

### **Changes in Existing Law Made by the Bill, as Reported**

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (new matter is printed in italics and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

## **TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **PART I—ORGANIZATION OF COURTS**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **CHAPTER 5—DISTRICT COURTS**

\* \* \* \* \*

### **§ 124. Texas**

Texas is divided into four judicial districts to be known as the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas.

#### Northern District

(a) The Northern District comprises seven divisions.

(1) The Dallas Division comprises the counties of Dallas, Ellis, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, and Rockwall.

Court for the Dallas Division shall be held at Dallas.

(2) The Fort Worth Division comprises the counties of Comanche, Erath, Hood, Jack, Palo Pinto, Parker, Tarrant, and Wise.

Court for the Fort Worth Division shall be held at Fort Worth.

(3) The Abilene Division comprises the counties of Callahan, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Howard, Jones, Mitchell, Nolan, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, and Throckmorton.

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(4) The San Angelo Division comprises the counties of Brown, Coke, Coleman, Concho, Crockett, Glasscock, Irion, Menard, Mills, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, and Tom Green.

Court for the San Angelo Division shall be held at San Angelo.

(5) The Amarillo Division comprises the counties of Armstrong, Brisco, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, and Wheeler.

Court for the Amarillo Division shall be held at Amarillo.

(6) The Wichita Falls Division comprises the counties of Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, King, Knox, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young.

Court for the Wichita Falls Division shall be held at Wichita Falls.

(7) The Lubbock Division comprises the counties of Bailey, Borden, Cochran, Crosby, Dawson, Dickens, Floyd, Gaines, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Kent, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Scurry, Terry, and Yoakum.

Court for the Lubbock Division shall be held at Lubbock.

#### Southern District

(b) The Southern District comprises seven divisions.

(1) The Galveston Division comprises the counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, and Matagorda.

Court for the Galveston Division shall be held at Galveston.

(2) The Houston Division comprises the counties of Austin, Brazos, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Grimes, Harris, Madison, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

Court for the Houston Division shall be held at Houston.

(3) The Laredo Division comprises the counties of Jim Hogg, La Salle, McMullen, Webb, and Zapata.

Court for the Laredo Division shall be held at Laredo.

(4) The Brownsville Division comprises the counties of Cameron and Willacy.

Court for the Brownsville Division shall be held at Brownsville.

(5) The Victoria Division comprises the counties of Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Refugio, and Victoria.

Court for the Victoria Division shall be held at Victoria.

(6) The Corpus Christi Division comprises the counties of Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, and San Patricio.

Court for the Corpus Christi Division shall be held at Corpus Christi.

(7) The McAllen Division comprises the counties of Hidalgo and Starr.

Court for the McAllen Division shall be held at McAllen.

Eastern District

(c) The Eastern District comprises seven divisions.

(1) The Tyler Division comprises the counties of Anderson, Cherokee, Gregg, Henderson, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Van Zandt, and Wood.

Court for Tyler Division will be held at Tyler.

(2) The Beaumont Division comprises the counties of Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Newton, and Orange.

Court for the Beaumont Division is to be held at Beaumont.

(3) The Sherman Division comprises the counties of Collin, Cook, Delta, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Hopkins, and Lamar.

Court for the Sherman Division shall be held at Sherman and Plano.

(4) The Marshall Division comprises the counties of Camp, Cass, Harrison, Marion, Morris, and Upshur.

Court for the Marshall Division shall be held at Marshall.

(5) The Texarkana Division comprises the counties of Bowie, Franklin, Red River, and Titus.

Court for the Texarkana Division shall be held at Texarkana, and may be held anywhere within the Federal courthouse in Texarkana that is located astride the State line between Texas and Arkansas.

(6) The Lufkin Division comprises the counties of Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler.

Court for the Lufkin Division shall be held at Lufkin.

Western District

(d) The Western District comprises seven divisions.

(1) The Austin Division comprises the counties of Bastrop, Blanco, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Gillespie, Hays, Kimble, Lampasas, Lee, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, San Saba, Travis, Washington, and Williamson.

Court for the Austin Division shall be held at Austin.

(2) The Waco Division comprises the counties of Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Freestone, Hamilton, Hill, Leon, Limestone, McLennan, Milam, Robertson, and Somervell.

Court for the Waco Division shall be held at Waco.

(3) The El Paso Division comprises the county of El Paso.

Court for the El Paso Division shall be held at El Paso.

(4) The San Antonio Division comprises the counties of Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Dimmit, Frio, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, Real, and Wilson.

Court for the San Antonio Division shall be held at San Antonio.

(5) The Del Rio Division comprises the counties of Edwards, Kinney, Maverick, Terrell, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Zavalla.

Court for the Del Rio Division shall be held at Del Rio.

(6) The Pecos Division comprises the counties of Brewster, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Hudspeth, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Ward, and Winkler.

Court for the Pecos and Alpine Division shall be held at Pecos.

(7) The Midland-Odessa Division comprises the counties of Andrews, Crane, Ector, Martin, Midland, and Upton.

Court for the Midland-Odessa Division shall be held at Midland. Court may be held, in the discretion of the court, in Odessa, when courtroom facilities are made available at no expense to the Government.

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### **§ 128. Washington**

Washington is divided into two judicial districts to be known as the Eastern and Western Districts of Washington.

#### **Eastern District**

(a) The Eastern District comprises the counties of Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima.

Court for the Eastern District shall be held at Spokane, Yakima, Walla Walla, and Richland.

#### **Western District**

(b) The Western District comprises the counties of Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom.

Court for the Western District shall be held at Bellingham, Seattle, Tacoma, Mount Vernon, and Vancouver.

