

AN ACT

relating to the provision of certain self-help resources by state and county courts, including through the Internet website of a state court and in the office of the court clerk.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 51, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 51.808 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.808. NOTICE OF SELF-HELP RESOURCES. (a) The clerk of each court in this state shall:

(1) post on the court's Internet website, if any, a link to:

(A) the self-help resources Internet website designated by the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System, in consultation with the Texas Access to Justice Commission, that includes information on:

(i) lawyer referral services certified under Chapter 952, Occupations Code;

(ii) the name, location, and any Internet website of any local legal aid office; and

(iii) any court-affiliated self-help center serving the county in which the court is located; and

(B) the State Law Library's Internet website; and

(2) conspicuously display in the clerk's office in a location frequently accessed by the public a sign with the

1 information described in Subdivision (1).

2 (b) The Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial
3 System shall prescribe the format for the information required
4 under Subsection (a).

5 SECTION 2. Section 323.021, Local Government Code, is
6 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to
7 read as follows:

8 (a) The commissioners court of a county by order may
9 establish and maintain a county law library at the county seat or
10 another location determined by the commissioners court.

11 (c) The commissioners court of a county may establish,
12 maintain, and operate in cooperation with other counties a joint
13 free county law library for the benefit of the cooperating counties
14 in the same manner that a joint county library may be established
15 and operated under Section 323.010.

16 SECTION 3. Section 323.023(b), Local Government Code, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 (b) The clerks of the respective courts shall collect the
19 costs and pay them to the county treasurer, or to any other official
20 who discharges the duties commonly delegated to the county
21 treasurer, for deposit in a fund to be known as the county law
22 library fund. The fund may be used only for:

23 (1) establishing the law library after the entry of
24 the order creating it;

25 (2) purchasing or leasing library materials,
26 maintaining the library, or acquiring furniture, shelving, or
27 equipment for the library; [~~or~~]

1 (3) purchasing or leasing library materials or
2 acquiring library equipment, including computers, software, and
3 subscriptions to obtain access to electronic research networks for
4 use by judges in the county; or

5 (4) establishing and maintaining a self-help center to
6 provide resources to county residents representing themselves in
7 legal matters.

8 SECTION 4. As soon as practicable after the effective date
9 of this Act, the Office of Court Administration of the Texas
10 Judicial System shall prescribe the format of the information
11 required under Section 51.808, Government Code, as added by this
12 Act.

13 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1911 passed the Senate on April 26, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 26, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1911 passed the House, with amendment, on May 23, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 145, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor