

STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION

of the

TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Adequate Funding of the Court E-Filing System

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Council is the policymaking body for the Texas Judicial Branch, created under Chapter 71, Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Council is charged with improving the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court mandated court electronic filing (e-Filing) in civil cases in the district courts, statutory county courts, constitutional county courts and statutory probate courts in December of 2012; and

WHEREAS, the e-Filing mandate first took effect on January 1, 2014 for the Supreme Court of Texas, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the intermediate appellate courts and courts in counties with a population of 500,000 or more; and

WHEREAS, the e-Filing mandate took effect on July 1, 2014 for courts in counties with a population of 200,000 or more; and

WHEREAS, mandatory e-Filing will be phased in for all courts based on population, with the smallest counties becoming mandatory on July 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, 225 district and county clerks' offices in 109 counties covering over 93% of the state's population now provide for e-Filing in their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the full implementation of e-Filing in the courts will result in greater efficiency for attorneys, litigants, clerks and the courts; and

WHEREAS, some counties in the state lack the technology resources to allow the county to take full advantage of the e-Filing system; and

WHEREAS, one-time grant funding to counties without adequate technology resources will enable the counties to see the full advantages from e-Filing, saving the courts, counties and taxpayers considerable dollars.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Judicial Council recommends that the Texas Legislature:

- (1) provide adequate funding for E-Filing, as requested by the Office of Court Administration in its Legislative Appropriations Request; and
- (2) provide funding to allow the Office of Court Administration to procure an automated case management system for counties under 20,000 without means to do so; and
- (3) provide grant funds to counties across Texas to implement mandatory e-Filing, primarily to less populous counties who are required to fully implement e-Filing between January and July 2016.



Honorable Nathan L. Hecht
Chair, Texas Judicial Council

Contact: David Slayton
Executive Director, Texas Judicial Council
512-463-1625