

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1436  
By: Duncan  
Jurisprudence  
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As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, a judge must hear a case and make a ruling in the jurisdiction where the case is filed. Often in rural areas, a judge may sit in different counties during the week or month. Therefore, parties desiring to dispense with pretrial matters or have a judge sign an order must wait until the judge returns to the county. A change in law that authorizes the judge to handle pretrial matters away from the original county would expedite the trial process. This bill authorizes a judge to hear pre-trial matters, but is permissive and requires the consent of both parties. S.B. 1436 authorizes a judge to hear pretrial matters in a county other than the one in which the suit is filed.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 1436 authorize a judge to hear pretrial matters in a county other than the one in which the suit is filed.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 74.094, Government Code, by adding Subsection (e), to authorize a judge, who has jurisdiction over a suit pending on one county, to hear the suit's pretrial matters in a different county, if both parties agree.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.  
Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.