

## JIM WELLS COUNTY—CREATION OF.

H. B. No. 119.]

CHAPTER 140.

An Act to create and establish the county of Jim Wells, taken from the existing territory of Nueces county, prescribing its area and boundaries, appointing commissioners to organize said county, and prescribing their duties; providing for a division of said county into commissioners and justices precincts; providing for holding county and precinct elections for the election of county and precinct officers, and the location of the county seat of said county; providing for the attachment of said county to judicial, representative, senatorial and congressional districts and supreme judicial districts; providing for the assessment and collection of taxes, and for the defraying the expenses of organizing said county, and for the new county to pay its pro rata share of the debt of the county from which it is taken; repealing all laws and parts of laws in conflict herewith, and declaring an emergency.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. That a new county to be called the county of Jim Wells is hereby created, containing a superficial area of about eight hundred and sixty-five square miles, taken from the territory of the existing county of Nueces, and beginning at a point in the south line of Live Oak county, the N. E. corner of Duval county and the N. W. corner of Nueces county for the N. W. corner of this county; thence south with the east line of Duval county and west line of Nueces county about fifty-five (55) miles to the S. E. corner of Duval county and S. W. corner of Nueces county for the southwest corner of this county; thence easterly with the south line of Nueces county and north line of Starr county at about nine and six-tenths (9.6) miles past northeast corner Starr county and northwest corner Hidalgo county at about ten and six-tenths (10.6) miles to a point where the east line of the Houghten pasture produced would intersect this line for a corner of this county; thence northerly with the east line of the Houghten pasture produced about twenty-six (26) miles to a point in the north line of Mrs. H. M. King's pasture and south line of lands of Luciano Garcia and others for a corner of this county; thence easterly with said south line of Luciano Garcia and others and north line Mrs. H. M. King's pasture at about four and three-tenths (4.3) miles pass a corner said lands, continuing on same course at about seven and two-tenths (7.2) miles to a point where the center line of the road along the east line of Sections 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and the west line of Sections 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the subdivision of the Benton pasture produced would intersect this line for a corner of this county; thence north easterly with said center line of road along the east line of Sections 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 and the west line of Sections 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the subdivision of the Benton pasture about nine and eight-tenths (9.8) miles to a point in north line "Las Sauces" grant and south line of the "Agua Dulca" grant, being the northeast corner of Section 13 and the northwest corner of Section 14 of the subdivision of the Benton pasture; thence easterly with said south line of the "Agua Dulca" grant and north line "Las Sauces" grant to the southwest corner of the lands of Richard King and the southeast corner of lot B of

the R. King farm lots for a corner of this county; thence northerly with the east line lots B, 17, 18, 19 and 20 and west line of the lands of R. King at about five (5) miles pass northeast corner said lot 20, R. King farm lots, continuing on same course at about seven and five-tenths (7.5) miles to a point where this line will intersect the southeast line of the lands of John H. Gallagher and northwest line of Shares 10 and 1 of the Bluntzer partition produced for a corner of this county; thence, northeasterly with said southeast line John H. Gallagher and northwest line of shares 10 and 1 of the Bluntzer partition produced about eleven and five-tenths (11.5) miles to a point in the center of the main channel of the Nueces river for a corner of this county; thence up the center of the main channel of the Nueces river, with its meanders to a point a common corner of Live Oak and Nueces counties for a corner of this county; thence westerly with the south line of Live Oak county and north line of Nueces county about twenty-one and five-tenths (21.5) miles to place of beginning, containing about 865 square miles.

SEC. 2. That William Adams, W. T. Wright, W. W. West, Charles Premant and James F. Scott are hereby appointed commissioners to organize said county, and before entering upon their duties herein prescribed shall take an oath before some officer qualified to administer oaths faithfully and carefully to discharge the same.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the said commissioners, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum, for the transaction of business, to employ a competent surveyor to run the lines of said county, make field notes thereof and establish its corners and boundaries and lay off and divide said new county into four convenient precincts for the election of county commissioners, and not less than four convenient precincts for the election of justices of the peace and constables, particularly defining the boundaries of such precincts, and also to designate convenient places in said new county where elections shall be held, and appoint a presiding officer for each place designated in such new county for holding elections. Said commissioners shall keep or cause to be kept a record of all their proceedings, and cause the original thereof to be filed with the county clerk as an archive of said new county.

SEC. 4. The commissioners appointed under this Act to organize the new county shall meet in the town of Alice within ten days from the taking effect of this Act, or as early thereafter as practicable; that William Adams is hereby designated as the presiding officer and chairman of said commissioners, whose duties shall be to call the commissioners together at such times and place as may be necessary for the performance of the duties prescribed for them in this Act, and for the purpose of organizing the county. For the purpose of perfecting the organization of said new county, said commissioners and the presiding officer thereof, as above provided, shall have and exercise all the powers and duties prescribed by Chapter 2, Title 23, of the Revised Statutes, 1895, conferred on the commissioners court and county judge, respectively, except as herein otherwise provided. An election shall be ordered in said county as early as practicable for all county and precinct officers allowed or permitted by law to be elected, and also for the location of the county seat of

said new county, giving at least twenty days' notice of the time and place of election by printed hand bills posted in one or more public places in each precinct of said new county, and by publication thereof in a weekly newspaper published in said new county, which order shall state the names of the precinct officers for each place designated in such new county for holding elections, and shall give the boundaries of the election precincts and name the officers to be elected. All notices provided for herein shall be signed by the presiding officer or chairman of said commissioners. The said election shall be conducted and governed by the general laws on the subject of general elections, and the returns of said election shall be made to the commissioners hereinbefore appointed, who shall open the election returns, canvass same, and declare the result, and shall issue to the candidate or candidates who have received the greatest number of votes a certificate of election, stating therein the office to which such candidates have been elected, the number of votes polled for him, and the day on which said election was held, and shall sign the same and shall approve the official bonds of the officers elected. The officers elect may take the oath of office before any notary public of Nueces county or any notary public whose office is within the territory of the new county and originally appointed as a notary public of Nueces county, and said officers shall hold office until the next general election for county officers, and until their successors are qualified.

SEC. 5. Until said officers are elected and qualified, all the territory in said new county shall belong, for all purposes, to the county from which the same is taken, and when said new county has been fully organized, as herein provided for, and its officers elected and qualified the same is hereby made a part of the Twenty-eighth Judicial District of the State of Texas, and the said county of Jim Wells is hereby attached to the Twenty-third Senatorial District, and the Ninety-fourth Representative District and the Fifteenth Congressional District and the Fourth Supreme Judicial District.

SEC. 6. The said new county shall defray all expenses incurred in perfecting its organization, and shall also pay its pro rata of the liabilities now existing of the county from which its territory is taken in the manner, proportion and extent as fixed and provided for by the general laws of the State.

SEC. 7. The assessor of Nueces county, out of which said new county is created, shall assess the State, county and district taxes, if any there be, on all property subject to taxation in said new county for the year 1911, and for prior years, in the same manner as if no new county had been created by this Act. The tax collector of Nueces county may collect the taxes for the year 1911 and prior years assessed against the property situated in said new county until said new county shall have been duly organized by the election and qualification of its officers, and pay the same to the county treasurer of Nueces county, less his lawful commissions. When said new county shall have been organized, it shall be the duty of the tax collector of Nueces county to make a written monthly report of all taxes collected by him on property situated in said new county to the commissioners court of Nueces county, a certified copy

of which shall be transmitted by the county clerk of Nueces county to the county clerk of the new county, and it shall be the duty of the county treasurer of Nueces county to pay to the county treasurer of the new county all county and district taxes, if any, so collected for the year 1911 upon a warrant therefor duly issued by the county clerk of Nueces county based on the order of the commissioners court of Nueces county. It shall be the duty of the commissioners court of the new county to cause to be made as early as practicable a transcript of the rolls of Nueces county of all the property situated in the new county appearing from said rolls, which transcript shall be made in triplicate, one of which shall be for the use of the county collector of the new county, and one shall be filed in the office of the county clerk of said new county, and the third to be filed with the Comptroller of Public Accounts of the State of Texas.

SEC. 8. That all laws and parts of laws of this State with respect to the creation and organization of new counties, in so far as the same are in conflict with the provisions of this Act, shall have no application in the creation, establishment and organization of the county herein provided for.

SEC. 9. The great inconvenience to which the people are subjected, living in the territory from which said new county is created by being compelled to travel extraordinary distances to attend to their private and public business at the county seat of the county in which they now reside, creates an emergency and imperative public necessity that the Constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days should be, and the same is hereby suspended, and this Act take effect from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Approved March 25, 1911.  
Became a law on March 11, 1911.

Jim Wells Co Bdry.  
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File No. 3

Jim Wells County

Creation of County

Filed 2-3- 1977

BOB ARMSTRONG, Com'r

By James E. McCarty