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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 98TH CONGRESS

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

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REMARKS:

INTRODUCED BY de la GARZA

U.S. DISTRICT COURT IN BROWNSVILLE, TEX., IS OVERBURDENED

HON. E de la GARZA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1984

● Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, in the interest of facilitating the judicial process in the south Texas Rio Grande Valley area, I am today introducing legislation which would create a Federal district court within the southern district court system of Texas.

It has become increasingly evident that the existing U.S. district court in Brownsville, Tex., is overburdened. The large caseload statistics for that court, and the accompanying magistrate activity, are due to the extraordinary population growth in the Rio Grande Valley during the last decade.

In the area, the Brownsville court serves Willacy, Cameron, Hidalgo, and Starr Counties. The legislation which I am today introducing would create another U.S. district court to exclusively serve judicial needs in Hidalgo and Starr Counties, allowing the Brownsville court to serve Willacy and Cameron Counties.

This new court would reside in McAllen in Hidalgo County. At present, the Brownsville court handles nearly half of all judicial action originating in Hidalgo and Starr Counties—and the creation of a McAllen court would ease the Brownsville caseload.

As well, there will be a savings of nearly $24,000 in expenses associated with juror transportation to the Brownsville court, not to mention the reduced security headaches of transporting prisoners from Hidalgo and Starr Counties down to Brownsville for trial.

Economy, security, and caseload reduction are all factors which speak in favor of a McAllen division of the southern district court system of Texas. And I hope, Mr. Speaker, that our colleagues will give their serious consideration to my bill in the interest of a more orderly judicial process in my area.●