

No. 531, S.]

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CHAPTER 211

AN ACT to amend section 1, 1, and sections 5 and 10; to repeal and recreate section 1, 2; and to create section 1, 3, of chapter 188, laws of 1951, relating to the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the county court of Walworth county and the terms of said court.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 188, laws of 1951, section 1, 1, is amended to read:
(Chapter 188, laws of 1951) Section 1. 1. The said county court shall have and exercise jurisdiction concurrent with and equal with the jurisdiction of the circuit court in said county in all civil actions, suits and proceedings, either at law or in equity, of every kind and nature, and in all special proceedings of every kind and nature, except in actions at law on contract where the debt, or balance due, or damages claimed in the complaint exceed the sum of * * * \$500,000.

SECTION 2. Chapter 188, laws of 1951, section 1, 2, is repealed and recreated to read:
(Chapter 188, laws of 1951) Section 1. 2. The said county court shall also have and exercise jurisdiction in all bastardy actions and in all criminal cases and actions, provided that in any criminal case in which the accused person is charged with murder, manslaughter or homicide in any degree the jurisdiction hereby conferred upon said county court is limited and restricted to the powers of receiving and accepting a plea of guilty or of nolo contendere to the crime charged and of pronouncing and imposing judgment and sentence based upon such plea and of executing and issuing all commitments, orders, writs, and other documents necessary or convenient in the execution of the judgment and sentence imposed. Upon the entry of a plea of not guilty in any such criminal case in which the accused person is charged with murder, manslaughter or homicide in any degree, the county court shall forthwith transmit such case to the circuit court of said county as provided by section 14 of this chapter, and said county court shall not have the power mentioned in said section 14 to retain jurisdiction in any such case in which a plea of not guilty is entered to a charge of murder, homicide or manslaughter.

SECTION 3. Chapter 188, laws of 1951, section 1, 3, is created to read:
(Chapter 188, laws of 1951) Section 1. 3. Subject to the exceptions set forth in subsections 1 and 2 of this section the said county court shall be a court of general jurisdiction, with the same power and jurisdiction to issue writs and processes of every nature and kind, and to hear, try and determine all civil and criminal suits, actions and proceedings of every kind and nature as have been heretofore, are now, or may hereafter be conferred by the constitution or statutes of this state upon the circuit courts of the state.

SECTION 4. Chapter 188, laws of 1951, section 5, is amended to read:
(Chapter 188, laws of 1951) Section 5. All examinations, recognizances and commitments from or by any examining magistrate of said county in bastardy cases and in all criminal actions * * * shall be certified and returned to * * * said county court, instead of to the circuit court for said county * * * and in the manner and

within the time prescribed by law, and the attendance of witnesses upon the trial of any person so committed shall be secured in the same manner as provided by law in the circuit court, and said county court shall have *the same* power to appoint * * * an attorney * * * to defend a person charged with * * * a criminal offense in the same manner and upon the same conditions as the circuit court may not or hereafter appoint * * * an attorney * * * to defend * * * a person charged with * * * a criminal offense, and said county court shall have the same power as the circuit court now has or shall hereafter have to fix and direct the payment of the compensation of such attorney.

SECTION 5. Chapter 188, laws of 1951, section 10, is amended to read:

Section 10. * * * A general term of said county court shall be held at the county seat of * * * Walworth county * * * on the second Monday of each of the following months, to wit: * * * February, March, April, May, June, July, September, October, November and December * * *. Special terms of said court may be called and held by order of the judge of said court * * * at any time and any such special * * * term * * * shall be held at the county seat of * * * said county * * *. Every general term shall continue until the commencement of the next succeeding general term. After an action or proceeding commenced or pending in said court has been noticed for trial and placed on the calendar it shall not be necessary for either party to notice the same for trial at any subsequent term, but the clerk shall place the same on the calendar according to the nature * * * of the issue * * * therein and the date of joinder thereof until * * * the action shall be tried or otherwise finally disposed of. Any trial, hearing, argument or assessment which shall have been commenced during any term * * * but shall not have been concluded before the commencement of any subsequent term * * * shall be continued and proceeded with at any subsequent term in the same manner and with like effect as though it had been commenced at such subsequent term.

Approved May 29, 1953.
