

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 3549

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the appointment of counsel to represent indigent
3 defendants.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 79, Government Code, is amended by
6 adding Section 79.044 to read as follows:

7 (a) This section applies only to a county with a population
8 of more than 3.3 million.

9 (b) The number of court appointments in criminal cases
10 received by an attorney is not to exceed the guidelines contained in
11 caseload studies published by the commission pursuant to House Bill
12 1318, 83rd Texas Legislature.

13 (c) If information provided under Section 79.036(a-1) shows
14 that the number of appointments made to an attorney accepting
15 appointments in the county exceeds caseload guidelines, the county
16 may withhold payment to that attorney for those cases that exceed
17 the caseload guidelines.

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.