

By: Miles

S.B. No. 1460

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

10 (b) The number of court appointments in criminal cases  
11 received by an attorney is not to exceed the guidelines contained in  
12 caseload studies published by the commission pursuant to House Bill  
13 1318, 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature.

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

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