

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 1328

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the referral of certain criminal proceedings in the
3 Texas-Mexico border region to an associate judge and reimbursement
4 requests for all or part of an associate judge's or interpreter's
5 salary.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 54A.004, Government Code, is amended by
8 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

9 (d) The commissioners court of a county located in the
10 Texas-Mexico border region, as defined by Section 2056.002, may
11 submit a request to the Texas Judicial Council for reimbursement of
12 all or part of the salary paid to an associate judge to whom judges
13 in the county give preference when referring cases under Section
14 54A.006(a-1) to be paid from money appropriated to the council for
15 border security purposes. The council may adopt rules to implement
16 this subsection.

17 SECTION 2. Section 54A.006, Government Code, is amended by
18 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

19 (a-1) A judge whose jurisdiction includes a county located
20 in the Texas-Mexico border region, as defined by Section 2056.002,
21 may refer to an associate judge who serves a county located in the
22 region any matter arising out of a criminal case involving alleged
23 conduct constituting a criminal trespass offense under Section
24 30.05, Penal Code, by a person not lawfully present in the United

1 States.

2 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 57, Government Code, is
3 amended by adding Section 57.003 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 57.003. COMPENSATION. The commissioners court of a
5 county located in the Texas-Mexico border region, as defined by
6 Section 2056.002, may submit a request to the Texas Judicial
7 Council for reimbursement of all or part of the salary paid to an
8 interpreter for services rendered in a case referred under Section
9 54A.006(a-1) to be paid from money appropriated to the council for
10 border security purposes. The council may adopt rules to implement
11 this section.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.