

Amend CSSB 1952 by adding the following appropriately numbered PART to the bill:

PART_____. CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

ARTICLE_____. USE OF TELECONFERENCING TO ENTER CERTAIN PLEAS OR
WAIVERS

SECTION_____.01. Article 27.18, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Subsections (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

(d) A defendant who is confined in a county other than the county in which charges against the defendant are pending may use the teleconferencing method provided by this article to enter a plea or waive a right in the court with jurisdiction over the case.

(e) A defendant who enters a plea or waiver under Subsection (d):

(1) consents to venue in the county in which the court receiving the plea or waiver is located; and

(2) waives any claim of error related to venue.

(f) If a defendant enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere under Subsection (d), the attorney representing the state may request at the time the plea is entered that the defendant submit a fingerprint of the defendant suitable for attachment to the judgment. On request for a fingerprint under this subsection, the county in which the defendant is confined shall obtain a fingerprint of the defendant and use first class mail or other means acceptable to the attorney representing the state and the county to forward the fingerprint to the court accepting the plea.