

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 254  
By: Kolkhorst  
Criminal Jurisprudence  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Identity theft is the stealing of one person's personal identification information such as social security number, name, date of birth, and mother's maiden name in order to fraudulently establish credit, and run debt or in some cases take over financial accounts.

The purpose of HB 254 is to assist prosecutors as well as law enforcement officials in the prosecution of identity theft cases.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

HB254 establishes that a suspect in an identity theft case may be prosecuted in any county in which an offense was committed or the county in which the victim resides.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and applies only to the prosecution of an offense commenced by the filing of an indictment or information on or after that date. A prosecution commenced before September 1, 2003, is controlled by the law in effect at the time the prosecution was commenced, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.