

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 616
By: Keel
Criminal Jurisprudence
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Terroristic threat is currently categorized as a misdemeanor, unless the threat is made with intent to impair or interrupt public utilities or public transportation, in which event it is a felony of the third degree. In situations where terroristic threat is made with intent to interrupt the occupation or use of a building, church, or transportation conveyance, the punishment is a Class A misdemeanor, no matter the economic loss to the victim. In some situations, a bomb threat to a business can cause the evacuation and abandonment of a building for several hours, and in such case the economic loss to the business can total into the tens of thousands of dollars. House Bill 616 would attach a monetary measure to the crime, so that where the victim's losses total more than \$1,500.00, the offense would be classified as a state jail felony.

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

House Bill 616 amends the Penal Code to attach a monetary measure to the offense of issuing a terroristic threat with the intent to interrupt the occupation or use of a building, church, or transportation conveyance, so that where the victim's losses total more than \$1,500.00, the offense would be classified as a state jail felony.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003.