

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 982
By: Talton
Law Enforcement
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Under current law, a peace officer may not arrest a person who has voluntarily confessed to a crime without first obtaining a warrant, unless that person is about to escape. This may require an officer to release and keep track of the suspect while procuring a warrant from a magistrate. House Bill 982 would allow a peace officer to arrest a person who has voluntarily confessed to a felony, but does not fall under the exception for suspects about to escape currently provided by law, without procuring a warrant.

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 982 amends Chapter 14, Code of Criminal Procedure, to authorize a peace officer to make an arrest without a warrant if a person makes a statement to the peace officer that would be admissible in court against the person and establishes probable cause to believe that the person has committed a felony.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.