

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

S.B. 408  
By: Deuell  
Criminal Jurisprudence  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Public servants, their families and household members, and victims of abuse are the populations most subject to terroristic threats. The motivation to prosecute these offenses is little given the risk of the threats and the lack of jail time and fines for the perpetrator. Increasing the penalty would increase the motivation to prosecute and increase the protection offered. C.S.H.B. 512 seeks to increase the penalty for terroristic threats from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor.

### **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**

C.S.H.B. 512 amends the Penal Code to increase the penalty of making terroristic threats against a person's family member, household or against a public servant from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2003.

### **COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE**

The substitute differs from the original by making a nonsubstantive change.