

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 79TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**May 19, 2005**

**TO:** Honorable John Whitmire, Chair, Senate Committee on Criminal Justice

**FROM:** John S. O'Brien, Deputy Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB615** by Puente (Relating to a defendant's right to appear by counsel in certain misdemeanor cases.), **As Engrossed**

**No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure relating to appearance and identification of a defendant at trial for a misdemeanor offense not punishable by confinement in jail. The bill would require that counsel for the defendant stipulates to the identity of the defendant before trial could proceed without the defendant's personal presence.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2005.

**Local Government Impact**

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:**

**LBB Staff:** JOB, VDS, KJG