

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

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

**April 11, 2005**

**TO:** Honorable Terry Keel, Chair, House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence

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

**IN RE: HB1701** by Keel (Relating to the defense of indigent persons accused of a criminal offense.),  
**As Introduced**

<p><b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b></p>
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The bill would amend the Government Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure relating to the defense of indigents accused of a criminal offense. The bill would require counties to report indigent defense information, rules, and revisions on a biennial, rather than an annual basis. The due date of November 1 of odd-numbered years would follow regular sessions of the legislature when changing plan requirements are most likely to be implemented. The bill would clarify that that juvenile boards must also submit to the Task Force and/or verify the rules and forms on file with the Task Force. The bill would clarify that currently there are five appointees to the Task Force on Indigent Defense, rather than four. The bill would define a governmental entity for the purposes of creating a public defender office. To the extent the bill would reduce the number of Task Force reviews of local plans from annually to biennially, the bill passed may generate minimal savings for the Task Force on Indigent Defense.

**Local Government Impact**

To the extent that local government would incur savings by reporting biennially, rather than annually to the Task Force on Indigent Defense, no significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council

**LBB Staff:** JOB, ZS, TB, KJG