

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 79TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 18, 2005

TO: Honorable Jeff Wentworth, Chair, Senate Committee on Jurisprudence

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

IN RE: HB3441 by Herrero (Relating to the exchange of benches between justices of the peace.), **As Engrossed**

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would authorize a justice of the peace to hold court for any other justice of the peace in any county at the request of that justice. The justices of any county would be authorized to exchange benches for a period not to exceed 5 days. A justice who exchanges benches with another justice would not be entitled to receive compensation from the commissioners court of the county in which the regular justice serves.

Under current statute, a justice of the peace may hold court for another justice in the same county, whereas the provisions of the bill would authorize a justice of peace to hold court for any other justice in any county. Current statute does not set a specific time limit for serving as a visiting judge or for sharing a bench.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2005.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies:

LBB Staff: JOB, DLBa