

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 80TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 4, 2007

TO: Honorable Aaron Pena, Chair, House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence

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

IN RE: SB159 by Wentworth (Relating to a local public defender's office that represents indigent defendants in criminal cases.), **As Engrossed**

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure regarding creation and operations of a county public defender's office that represents indigent defendants in criminal cases. The bill would also authorize a commissioners court upon written approval of a judge of a county court, statutory county court, or district court trying cases under Title 3, Family Code (Juvenile Justice Code) to create or contract for a public defender's office. Under current statute, designation of a public defender applies to courts trying criminal cases.

In addition, the bill would authorize a judge to impose as a condition of community supervision, that a defendant represented by a public defender's office to reimburse the county for the attorney's services.

Local Government Impact

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

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

LBB Staff: JOB, ES, MN, DB