

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

**FISCAL NOTE, 80TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**February 8, 2007**

**TO:** Honorable Jeff Wentworth, Chair, Senate Committee on 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.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

<b>No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b>
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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, MN, DB