

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 770  
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Criminal Jurisprudence  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Current statutes assess criminal penalties for bail jumping and failure to appear if a person lawfully released from custody intentionally or knowingly fails to appear in court in accordance with the terms of release. The penalty for this offense is enhanced to a third degree felony if the offense for which the person's appearance is required is classified as a felony, regardless of degree. H.B. 770 seeks to further enhance the penalty for bail jumping and failure to appear in cases involving the most severe offenses.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

H.B. 770 amends the Penal Code to enhance the penalty for bail jumping and failure to appear as a condition of being released from custody from a Class A misdemeanor to a felony of the first degree if the offense for which the actor's appearance was required is an offense of murder or capital murder. The bill makes conforming changes.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2011.