

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 82ND LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 20, 2011

TO: Honorable John Whitmire, Chair, Senate Committee on Criminal Justice

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

IN RE: HB2847 by Madden (Relating to the use of video teleconferencing systems in certain criminal proceedings.), **Committee Report 2nd House, As Amended**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to ensure a defendant's plea made by video teleconferencing must be recorded by a court reporter. The bill would also authorize an existing \$3-\$5 security fee paid as a cost of court to be used for the purchase of video teleconferencing equipment. The bill would allow the use of video teleconferencing in certain other criminal proceedings, including officers testifying in grand jury proceedings and inmates testifying in criminal proceedings. To the extent the use of such equipment, including use by court reporters, would make court proceedings more convenient and efficient, no significant positive impact on judicial workloads or fiscal implication to the state is anticipated. The bill would take effect September 1, 2011.

Local Government Impact

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

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 405 Department of Public Safety, 696 Department of Criminal Justice

LBB Staff: JOB, TB, ESi