

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 1196  
By: Clardy  
Criminal Jurisprudence  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

A former Texas Legislature created a mandatory collection improvement program for Texas counties with a population of 50,000 or greater to improve the collection of court costs, fees, and fines imposed in criminal cases. The applicable counties must develop and implement a program that consists of a component designed to improve in-house collections for eligible cases and a component designed to improve the collection of certain past-due balances for eligible cases, which may be implemented by entering into a contract with a private attorney or public or private vendor. Interested parties assert that counties being able to contract with a third-party collection service company for services involving both of these components may lead to a more effective and efficient local government.

H.B. 1196 seeks to exempt a certain county with a population of less than 55,000 from the mandatory collection improvement program.

### **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. 1196 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to exempt a county with a population of less than 55,000 that contains a hospital owned and operated by the state from statutory provisions requiring certain counties to develop and implement a program to improve the collection of court costs, fees, and fines imposed in criminal cases.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2013.