

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 83RD LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 28, 2013

TO: Honorable Abel Herrero, Chair, House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB1703 by Farrar (Relating to abolishing the death penalty.), **As Introduced**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure by making life without parole the mandatory sentence for all capital felonies and abolishing the death penalty. The Office of Court Administration (OCA) states that the bill would result in lowered costs for state courts by decreasing demand on current judicial resources; however, the OCA does not compile statistics regarding the amount of judicial resources expended on death penalty cases, so the amount of savings cannot be determined. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice anticipates no fiscal impact from the bill.

Local Government Impact

According to OCA the bill would have an undetermined positive fiscal impact to local government due to decreased cost of indigent defense for defendants, reduced court operating costs, and reduced prosecutorial and law enforcement resources.

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

LBB Staff: UP, ESi, GG, JGA, KKR