

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

**FISCAL NOTE, 83RD LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**April 16, 2013**

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

**FROM:** Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: SB780** by Hinojosa (Relating to the prioritization of certain available legal defense services when appointing representation for an indigent defendant in a criminal case.), **As Introduced**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to require a court or designee to appoint the public defender office in some cases if such an office exists in the county.

The Office of Court Administration does not anticipate a significant fiscal impact to the state.

**Local Government Impact**

The bill may lead to increased appointment of a local public defender's office instead of private attorneys to represent indigent defendants. To the extent that the public defender's costs are fixed, a county may save on costs that would otherwise be spent paying a private attorney. However, these savings are not anticipated to be significant.

**Source Agencies:** 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council

**LBB Staff:** UP, ESi, KKR