

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

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

**March 25, 2013**

**TO:** Honorable Royce West, Chair, Senate Committee on Jurisprudence

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

**IN RE:** SB1237 by Schwertner (Relating to referral of disputes for alternative dispute resolution, including victim-directed referrals; authorizing a fee.), **As Introduced**

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

The bill would amend the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to authorize an entity providing criminal dispute resolution to collect a fee determined by a commissioners court. The fee authorized by the bill would be collected by counties and not come to the state; accordingly, the Office of Court Administration does not anticipate any significant fiscal impact to the court system resulting from the bill. The bill would take effect September 1, 2013.

**Local Government Impact**

Williamson, Tom Green, and Jasper Counties were contacted by the Comptroller of Public Accounts to obtain information about the referral of disputes for alternative dispute resolution, including victim-directed referrals. Williamson and Jasper Counties indicated that they could not determine if there would be a fiscal impact on their units of local government, and Tom Green County indicated they do not have an alternative dispute resolution system and would not be able to charge a fee for that purpose. This estimate assumes the bill may result in a positive fiscal impact to counties that choose to provide criminal dispute resolution services, but such impact is not anticipated to be significant.

**Source Agencies:** 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 304  
Comptroller of Public Accounts

**LBB Staff:** UP, CL, AM, JP