

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 24, 2015

TO: Honorable John T. Smithee, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB1766 by Hunter (Relating to certain defenses to libel actions.), Committee Report 1st House, Substituted

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Civil Practice and Remedies Code regarding the truth as a defense to an action for libel. The bill would add that, in an action brought against a publication, the defense of truth applies to an accurate reporting of allegations made by a third party regarding matters of public concern. The bill would also provide that these provisions would not abrogate or lessen any other remedy, right, cause of action, defense, immunity, or privilege available under the law. Based on the analysis of the Office of Court Administration, duties and responsibilities associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be accomplished by utilizing existing resources.

Local Government Impact

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

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

LBB Staff: UP, GDz, FR