

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

**FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**April 8, 2015**

**TO:** Honorable John Kuempel, Chair, House Committee on General Investigating & Ethics

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

**IN RE: HB3945** by Geren (Relating to restrictions on introducing, sponsoring, or voting on measures or bills in which a member of the legislature has certain interests; creating a criminal offense.), **As Introduced**

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

The bill would amend Government Code to expand restrictions on introducing, sponsoring, or voting on a bill if a business entity related to a member of the legislature or their spouse would benefit from the bill. The bill would also create a Class A misdemeanor offense for legislators that violate these restrictions. Any costs associated with implementing the bill could be absorbed within existing resources.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015.

**Local Government Impact**

A Class A misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of not more than \$4,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed one year, or both. Costs associated with enforcement, prosecution, and confinement could likely be absorbed with existing resources. Revenue from fines imposed and collected is not anticipated to have a significant fiscal impact.

**Source Agencies:** 356 Texas Ethics Commission

**LBB Staff:** UP, FR, EP, EMO, KVe