

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 30, 2017

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

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: **HB3785** by Capriglione (Relating to associate judges and court reporters for certain family law cases and proceedings.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Family Code to place additional requirements on associate judge courts for judges appointed under Chapter 201 of the Family Code, for record keeping of court hearings, and for when a court reporter is required to be present. Based on the analysis of the Office of Court Administration and the Office of the Attorney General, duties and responsibilities associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be accomplished by utilizing existing resources.

Local Government Impact

According to OCA, to the extent that a county utilizes an associate judge appointed under Chapter 201 of the Family Code and does not currently use the services of a court reporter or an electronic audio recording device, the county may have costs to employ a court reporter or purchase an electronic audio recording device. However, since a court could utilize an electronic audio recording device and the cost is minimal, OCA presumes that a county would choose this option rather than employing a court reporter unless the county has existing resources to hire a court reporter. Therefore, no significant fiscal impact to the local courts is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 302 Office of the Attorney General

LBB Staff: UP, LBO, GDz