|  |
| --- |
| BILL ANALYSIS |

|  |
| --- |
| H.B. 439 |
| By: Shaheen |
| Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence |
| Committee Report (Unamended) |

|  |
| --- |
| **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE** Concerns have been raised regarding the civil protections available to a person who reports to law enforcement activity reasonably considered suspicious. H.B. 439 seeks to address this problem by establishing limitations on civil actions against a person who makes such a report. |
| **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision. |
| **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY** It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution. |
| **ANALYSIS** H.B. 439 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to prohibit a civil action from being brought against a person who made a report of suspicious activity of another person to an appropriate law enforcement authority if the person who made the report acted as a reasonable person would in the same or similar circumstances and with a reasonable belief that the suspicious activity constituted or was in furtherance of a crime, including an act of terrorism.  |
| **EFFECTIVE DATE** September 1, 2019. |