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| BILL ANALYSIS |

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| H.B. 2131 |
| By: Walle |
| Criminal Jurisprudence |
| Committee Report (Unamended) |

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| **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE** It has been suggested that the requirement for attorneys in public defender offices to report the results of any investigation of a client's financial circumstances to the appointing judge violates attorney-client privilege. H.B. 2131 seeks to remedy this situation by eliminating this requirement. |
| **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. 2131 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to remove the reporting requirement on a public defender's office that conducts an investigation of the financial condition of a person the public defender's office is appointed to represent and the authorization for a judge to hold a hearing to determine if the person is indigent and entitled to representation by a public defender. |
| **EFFECTIVE DATE** September 1, 2019. |