

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

**FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**April 7, 2019**

**TO:** Honorable Jeff Leach, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

**FROM:** John McGeady, Assistant Director    Sarah Keyton, Assistant Director  
Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB1481** by Murr (Relating to the composition of the 38th Judicial District, the creation of the 454th Judicial District composed of Medina County, the creation of the office of criminal district attorney of Medina County, and the abolishment of the office of county attorney for Medina County.), **As Introduced**

**Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds** for HB1481, As Introduced: a negative impact of (\$751,764) through the biennium ending August 31, 2021.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

**General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</b>
2020	(\$375,882)
2021	(\$375,882)
2022	(\$375,882)
2023	(\$375,882)
2024	(\$375,882)

**All Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund</b>	<b>Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2019</b>
	<b>1</b>	
2020	(\$375,882)	2.0
2021	(\$375,882)	2.0
2022	(\$375,882)	2.0
2023	(\$375,882)	2.0
2024	(\$375,882)	2.0

**Fiscal Analysis**

The bill would amend the Government Code to remove Medina County from the 38th District

Court; create the office of criminal district attorney of Medina County and abolish the office of county attorney for Medina County; and create the 454th District Court in Medina County.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

### **Methodology**

The annual salary provided by the state for a district judge is \$140,000, in addition to benefits (state contributions for group insurance and the Judicial Retirement System) which are estimated to be \$38,505 each year. The total annual salary and benefits cost for a district judge is estimated to be \$178,505 each fiscal year.

The annual salary for a district attorney listed in the Professional Prosecutors Act is \$140,000 from the state plus benefits which are estimated to be \$29,877 each fiscal year, or \$169,877 in total. District attorneys are entitled to receive a supplement of \$27,500 from the state for office expenses each fiscal year. ( $\$169,877 + \$27,500 = \$197,377$  each fiscal year).

These costs are traditionally met through a mix of General Revenue Fund and Judicial Fund No. 573 funding, however for the past several fiscal years Judicial Fund No. 573 revenues have not been sufficient to meet all judicial salary obligations. Due to this, General Revenue funding has been used to meet the remaining obligations. Therefore, this estimate assumes General Revenue funding would be needed to cover the full state obligations to meet the provisions of the bill.

### **Local Government Impact**

The bill would establish new court, which would require annual costs for personnel and operating expenses and may require one-time costs, such as furniture, to establish.

Real County and Uvalde County estimate an increase in costs associated with operating the district court and office of the district attorney. Medina County anticipates a savings to their county based on provisions of the bill.

**Source Agencies:** 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts

**LBB Staff:** WP, SLE, MW, DA, AF