

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 24, 2019

TO: Honorable Nicole Collier, Chair, House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence

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

IN RE: HB3555 by Farrar (Relating to the prosecution of the criminal offense of sexual assault.),
As Introduced

The probable fiscal impact of implementing the bill is indeterminate due to the lack of data that would allow cases to be identified as nonconsensual as specified under the provisions of the bill and could therefore be eligible for prosecution as sexual assault. These data are necessary to determine the fiscal implications of the bill.

The bill would amend the Penal Code as it relates to the prosecution of the offense of sexual assault. Under the provisions of the bill, a sexual assault would include certain nonconsensual behavior. Sexual assault as described in the bill is currently punishable as a second degree felony.

Expanding the circumstances for a criminal offense is expected to result in additional demands on the correctional resources of the counties and of the State due to an increase in individuals placed under supervision in the community or sentenced to terms of confinement within state correctional institutions. Whether the bill would have a significant fiscal impact is indeterminate due to the lack of data that would allow those cases in which the other person is unable to communicate because of fear or the actor is a health care services provider who exploits the other person's dependency to be isolated from all other cases. The Office of Court Administration indicates the modifications outlined in the bill's provisions will not result in a significant fiscal impact.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 696
 Department of Criminal Justice

LBB Staff: WP, LBO, LM, SPa, DA