

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 22, 2019

TO: Honorable Kelly Hancock, Chair, Senate Committee on Business & Commerce

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

IN RE: SB988 by Watson (Relating to the assessment of litigation costs and attorney's fees in certain actions under the public information law.), **As Introduced**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Government Code to require that a court may not award costs and attorney's fees to a plaintiff who substantially prevails or to whom the governmental body voluntarily releases the requested information after the suit is filed unless the court finds the action or defense of the action was groundless in fact or law.

Based on the analysis of the Office of Court Administration, duties and responsibilities associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be accomplished using existing resources.

Local Government Impact

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

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council

LBB Staff: WP, CLo, MW, GDz, DA, CMa