

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 3, 2019

TO: Honorable Joan Huffman, Chair, Senate Committee on State Affairs

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

IN RE: **SB2342** by Creighton (Relating to the jurisdiction of, and practices and procedures in civil cases before, justice courts, county courts, statutory county courts, and district courts.), **As Introduced**

<p>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</p>
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The bill would amend the Government Code to require the Supreme Court to amend the expedited actions rules to include civil actions that do not exceed \$250,000 and to remove the requirement that the amount include all damage claims, penalties, attorney's fees, expenses, costs, interest, and other damages. The bill would require the Supreme Court to establish pilot programs in 10 counties which would allow trial courts to experiment with practices and procedures to enhance access to the courts and would require a 12-member jury in civil cases exceeding \$250,000 in controversy and family law cases that are tried before statutory county courts with that jurisdiction.

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.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

Local Government Impact

According to the Office of Court Administration, increasing the number of cases that require a 12-member jury may increase juror compensation costs, but it is not anticipated that a significant number of new cases would be tried before larger juries. No significant fiscal impact to local courts is anticipated.

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

LBB Staff: WP, CMa, SLE, DA