By:  Coleman H.B. No. 3549

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the appointment of counsel to represent indigent defendants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Chapter 79, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 79.044 to read as follows:

(a)  This section applies only to a county with a population of more than 3.3 million.

(b)  The number of court appointments in criminal cases received by an attorney is not to exceed the guidelines contained in caseload studies published by the commission pursuant to House Bill 1318, 83rd Texas Legislature.

(c)  If information provided under Section 79.036(a-1) shows that the number of appointments made to an attorney accepting appointments in the county exceeds caseload guidelines, the county may withhold payment to that attorney for those cases that exceed the caseload guidelines.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.