By:  Ordaz Perez H.B. No. 4335

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to improving judicial transparency by collecting and publishing data regarding disposition of cases in trial courts.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 71.035, Subchapter C, Chapter 71, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 71.035.  STATISTICS; ENFORCEMENT BY MANDAMUS. (a) The council shall gather judicial statistics, including case level data describing the amount and character of business conducted, and other pertinent information from the several state judges and other court officials of this state. In addition, the council shall implement a monthly tracking system to ensure accountability for counties and courts which participate in the statewide integrated system for child support, medical support, and dental support enforcement established under Section 231.0011, Family Code. As a duty of office, the district clerks and county clerks serving the affected courts shall report monthly such information as may be required by the council, including, at a minimum, the time required to enforce cases from date of delinquency, from date of filing, and from date of service until date of disposition. Such information as is necessary to complete the report and not directly within the control of the district or county clerk, such as date of delinquency, shall be provided to the clerk by the child support registry or by the enforcement agency providing Title IV-D enforcement services in the court. The monthly report shall be transmitted to the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System no later than the 20th day of the month following the month reported, in such form as may be prescribed by the Office of Court Administration, which may include electronic data transfer. Copies of such reports shall be maintained in the office of the appropriate district or county clerk for a period of at least two years and shall be available to the public for inspection and reproduction.

SECTION 2.  The Texas Judicial Council shall adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this bill.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.