By:  Canales (Senate Sponsor - Perry) H.B. No. 2523

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 15, 2023; May 15, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice; May 19, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 19, 2023, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Whitmire        X

Flores          X

Bettencourt     X

Hinojosa        X

Huffman         X

King            X

Miles           X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the reimbursement of expenses to certain counsel appointed to represent a defendant in a criminal proceeding.

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

SECTION 1.  Article 26.05, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (d-1) to read as follows:

(d)  A counsel in a noncapital case, other than an attorney with a public defender's office, appointed to represent a defendant under this code shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses, including expenses for:

(1)  investigation;

(2)  [~~and for~~] mental health and other experts; and

(3)  if the defendant is confined in a correctional facility located more than 50 miles from the court in which the defendant's proceeding is pending:

(A)  travel to the defendant's location for a confidential communication and food and lodging related to that travel; and

(B)  any costs associated with remotely entering into a confidential communication with the defendant.

(d-1)  Expenses under Subsection (d) incurred with prior court approval shall be reimbursed in the same manner provided for capital cases by Articles 26.052(f) and (g), and expenses under Subsection (d) incurred without prior court approval shall be reimbursed in the manner provided for capital cases by Article 26.052(h).

SECTION 2.  The change in law made by this Act applies only to expenses incurred on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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