

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 10, 2025

TO: Honorable Paul Bettencourt, Chair, Senate Committee on Local Government

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB3711 by Capriglione (Relating to the investigation and prosecution of certain open meetings offenses as offenses against public administration and the publication of certain information regarding the prosecution of those offenses.), **As Engrossed**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB3711, As Engrossed: a negative impact of (\$5,366,009) through the biennium ending August 31, 2027.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five- Year Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</i>
2026	(\$3,349,146)
2027	(\$2,016,863)
2028	(\$2,016,863)
2029	(\$2,016,863)
2030	(\$2,016,863)

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund 1</i>	<i>Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2025</i>
2026	(\$3,349,146)	11.0
2027	(\$2,016,863)	11.0
2028	(\$2,016,863)	11.0
2029	(\$2,016,863)	11.0
2030	(\$2,016,863)	11.0

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would add Open Meeting Act violations committed by certain local government officials to the Texas Ranger's Public Integrity Unit (PIU) area of responsibility. Under the provisions of the bill, prosecuting attorneys would be directed to publish certain information online.

Methodology

According to the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the duties and responsibilities associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could not be absorbed within existing resources. DPS states that 6.0 additional Texas Rangers, one for each DPS region, would be needed to investigate the anticipated increase of PIU cases. Additionally, DPS estimates the agency would need an additional 5.0 full-time equivalent positions to support the unit, including 1.0 Administrative Assistant III, 1.0 Criminal Intelligence Analyst III, 1.0 Forensic Scientist IV, 1.0 Police Communications Operator IV, and 1.0 Program Specialist V.

This analysis includes \$1,536,485 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,536,485 in fiscal year 2027 for salary and benefits. Other costs including rent, consumables supplies, travel, other operating expenses, and capital expenditures would total \$1,812,661 in fiscal year 2026 and \$480,378 in fiscal year 2027.

Local Government Impact

There may be an increase of prosecutions by local attorneys; however, the fiscal impact cannot be determined at this time.

Source Agencies: 405 Department of Public Safety

LBB Staff: JMc, SZ, CSh, KVEL, RStu, NV