By: Collier H.B. No. 1229

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the representation of an arrested indigent person at the person's appearance before a magistrate in certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. Article 26.04, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Subsection (i-1) to read as follows:

(i-1) This subsection applies only to a county with a population of 2.2 million or more that is adjacent to a county with a population of more than 2.5 million. Notwithstanding Subsection (j)(2) or any other law, and if funds are appropriated by a county for this purpose, an attorney may be appointed under this article to represent an indigent person for the sole purpose of providing counsel in relation to that person's appearance before a magistrate as required by Article 14.06(a), 15.17(a), or 15.18(a). The attorney may represent the person in subsequent proceedings of that case, only if appointed for that purpose under the other provisions of this article.

SECTION 2. Article 26.04(i-1), Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by this Act, applies only to a person who is arrested on or after the effective date of this Act. A person arrested before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the person was arrested, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2027.