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County Judicial Issues

The 86th Legislative Session is only in its second month and already over 2500 bills and proposed constitutional amendments have been introduced. Many of these bills would have a direct effect on counties.

Most significantly, H.B.2 by Rep. Burrows/S.B.2 by Senator Bettencourt would lower the rollback rate from 8% to 2.5% and require mandatory elections. Counties with a tax levy under $15 Million would be required to hold an election in May, 2020 on the following issue: “Vote For or Against lowering the rollback rate from 8% to 2.5%.”

Without unfunded mandates relief, this bill would result in serious reductions of county services. On the other hand, H.J.R. 30 by Rep. Burns/S.J.R. 10 by Senator Buckingham would prohibit any future unfunded mandates. County officials need to communicate their concerns to their legislators on these and other important issues.

- □ HB 51 Canales, Terry(D) Relating to the creation and promulgation of certain standard forms for statewide use in criminal actions.

  Companions: HB 2680 Canales, Terry(D) (Refiled from 85R Session)

- □ HB 64 Canales, Terry(D) Relating to the expunction of arrest records and files relating to certain criminal offenses.

- □ HB 93 Canales, Terry(D) Relating to the inclusion of a magistrate's name on certain signed orders.

- □ HB 161 Moody, Joe(D) Relating to the procedure for rearrest and adjustment of the bond amount in certain criminal cases.

  Companions: HB 362 Moody, Joe(D) (Refiled from 85R Session)

- □ HB 173 Canales, Terry(D) Relating to the release on bail of a defendant arrested following a violation of a condition of community supervision.
HB 178  Canales, Terry(D)  Relating to a credit toward payment of costs for a defendant confined in jail or another facility before sentencing.

HB 179  Canales, Terry(D)  Relating to a special bill of review to reform a final judgment of forfeiture of a bail bond.

Companions:  HB 668  Canales, Terry(D)  (Refiled from 85R Session)

HB 182  Canales, Terry(D)  Relating to criminal asset forfeiture proceedings.

Companions:  SB 156  Hinojosa, Chuy(D)  (Refiled from 85R Session)  (Identical)

SB 247  Hinojosa, Chuy(D)  2-7-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

HB 196  Stephenson, Phil(R)  Relating to allowing justice and municipal courts to access the financial responsibility verification program.

HB 221  Gervin-Hawkins, Barbara(D)  Relating to the standards for attorneys representing indigent defendants in certain capital felony cases.

HB 229  Gervin-Hawkins, Barbara(D)  Relating to the temporary confidentiality and automatic expunction of records and files relating to certain nonviolent misdemeanor offenses.

HB 300  Murr, Andrew(R)  Relating to inquest summary reports certified by justices of the peace.

HB 301  Murr, Andrew(R)  Relating to fees collected by a justice court.

HB 332  Nevarez, Poncho(D)  Relating to the eligibility of a retired or former judge for assignment in certain proceedings.

HB 343  Nevarez, Poncho(D)  Relating to the annual state salary supplement for certain county judges.

Companions:  HB 1167  Nevarez, Poncho(D)  (Refiled from 85R Session)
HB 344  Dutton, Harold(D)  Relating to the age of criminal responsibility and to certain substantive and procedural matters related to that age.

HB 386  Burns, DeWayne(R)  Relating to the authority of a justice of the peace to issue a search warrant to collect a blood specimen from a person arrested for certain intoxication criminal offenses.

HB 586  Thompson, Senfronia(D)  Relating to the annual state contribution to counties for certain statutory probate court judge salaries.

General Remarks: Dec 27, 2018 - 18:56
Increases state contribution to county for statutory probate judge from $40,000 to 60% of district judge.

HB 1033  Murr, Andrew(R)  Relating to the jurisdiction of county and justice courts in civil matters.

Companions:  SB 409  Huffines, Donald(R) (Refiled from 85R Session)
             SB 793  Alvarado, Carol (F)(D) (Identical)

Civil jurisdiction for JP and county court increased from $10,000 to 20,000.

HB 1285  Smithee, John(R)  Relating to exemptions to reporting and list requirements for certain attorneys ad litem, guardians ad litem, mediators, and guardians.

Companions:  SB 41  Zaffirini, Judith(D) (Identical)
             2-1-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

General Remarks: Feb 10, 2019 - 17:07
Exempts pro bono ad litem from appointment and reporting requirements.

HB 1314  King, Phil(R)  Relating to the release on bail of, and the reimbursement to a county for certain costs of confining, a person charged with an administrative violation of parole or mandatory supervision.

General Remarks: Feb 10, 2019 - 17:20
Personal bond for blue warrants after 30 days
HB 1332  Israel, Celia(D)  Relating to the repeal of the authority of political subdivisions to adopt or enforce juvenile curfews.

General Remarks:  Feb 10, 2019 - 17:23
Repeals juvenile curfew ordinance authority.

HB 1341  Leach, Jeff(R)  Relating to the authority of a district clerk to post official and legal notices by electronic display.

Companions:  HB 624  Leach, Jeff(R)  (Refilled from 85R Session)
SB 414  Taylor, Van(R)  (Refilled from 85R Session)

General Remarks:  Feb 10, 2019 - 17:27
Allow district clerk to post by electronic display, same as county clerk.

HB 1359  Wu, Gene(D)  Relating to an attorney's entrance into a building that houses a court by presentation of the attorney's state bar membership card.

General Remarks:  Feb 10, 2019 - 17:28
Exempts attorneys from security requirements.

HB 1443  Thompson, Senfronia(D)  Relating to the certification of an area's wet or dry status for the purpose of an alcoholic beverage permit or license.

Companions:  HB 699  Blanco, Cesar(D)  (Identical)
1-9-19 H Filed

General Remarks:  Feb 10, 2019 - 17:34
Imposes 30 day deadline on county clerk to certify wet or dry.

HB 1481  Murr, Andrew(R)  Relating to the composition of the 38th Judicial District, the creation of the 454th Judicial District composed of Medina County, the creation of the office of criminal district attorney of Medina County.

HB 1494  Guillen, Ryan(D)  Relating to surety bonds for deputy clerks and other employees of county and district clerks.

General Remarks:  Feb 10, 2019 - 17:40
Expands bonding requirement to all employees of clerks.
SB 39  Zaffirini, Judith(D)  Relating to the consolidation and allocation of state civil court costs.

SB 40  Zaffirini, Judith(D)  Relating to locations, terms, sessions, and procedures for conducting court proceedings.

**General Remarks:**  Feb 10, 2019 - 17:49
Hold court anywhere during a disaster.

SB 41  Zaffirini, Judith(D)  Relating to exemptions to reporting and list requirements for certain attorneys ad litem, guardians ad litem, mediators, and guardians.

**Companions:**  HB 1285  Smithee, John(R)  (Identical)
2-1-19 H Filed

SB 49  Zaffirini, Judith(D)  Relating to the availability on the Internet of reports of political contributions and expenditures filed in connection with certain county judicial offices.

**Companions:**  SB 366  Zaffirini, Judith(D)  (Refiled from 85R Session)

**General Remarks:**  Nov 25, 2018 - 15:18
JP and Court at Law filings posted on county website

SB 171  Perry, Charles(R)  Relating to the amount of the fee paid by a defendant for a peace officer's services in executing or processing an arrest warrant, capias, or capias pro fine.

**Companions:**  SB 342  Perry, Charles(R)  (Refiled from 85R Session)

SB 172  Perry, Charles(R)  Relating to certain procedures applicable to a person arrested for an out-of-county offense.

SB 173  Perry, Charles(R)  Relating to requiring the state to reimburse counties for certain costs incurred in confining certain persons arrested following release from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

SB 174  Perry, Charles(R)  Relating to certain duties of a sheriff regarding a county jail prisoner's health benefits coverage information.
SB 536  Zaffrini, Judith (D)  Relating to associate judges for guardianship proceedings and protective services proceedings in certain courts.

*General Remarks:* Feb 10, 2019 - 18:05
Authorizes appointment of associate guardianship and protective services judges in county and statutory courts with approval of commissioners court.

SB 699  Hall, Bob (R)  Relating to the certification of an area's wet or dry status for the purpose of an alcoholic beverage permit or license.

*General Remarks:* Feb 10, 2019 - 18:21
30 day deadline for clerk certification.