

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 2131  
By: Walle  
Criminal Jurisprudence  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

It has been suggested that the requirement for attorneys in public defender offices to report the results of any investigation of a client's financial circumstances to the appointing judge violates attorney-client privilege. H.B. 2131 seeks to remedy this situation by eliminating this requirement.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

H.B. 2131 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to remove the reporting requirement on a public defender's office that conducts an investigation of the financial condition of a person the public defender's office is appointed to represent and the authorization for a judge to hold a hearing to determine if the person is indigent and entitled to representation by a public defender.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2019.