

SUBJECT: Extending judicial education training to certain judges and magistrates

COMMITTEE: Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Leach, Farrar, Y. Davis, Krause, Meyer, Neave, Smith, White
0 nays
1 absent — Julie Johnson

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Thomas Parkinson)
Against — None
On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* David Slayton, Texas Judicial Council, Office of Court Administration)

BACKGROUND: Government Code sec. 56.003(b) authorizes the Court of Criminal Appeals to use up to one-third of the funds appropriated for any fiscal year for the continuing legal education of certain judges and magistrates.

DIGEST: HB 598 would include full-time associate judges and part-time masters, magistrates, referees, and associate judges on the list of judges and magistrates for whose continuing legal education the Court of Criminal Appeals could use appropriated funds.
The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 598 would allow the Court of Criminal Appeals to provide proper continuing legal education for more of the state's judges and magistrates. Judges and magistrates have called for more training opportunities, especially regarding mental health procedures enacted by the 85th Legislature. Since not all judges and magistrates currently are covered under appropriated judicial education training funds, this bill would allow part-time magistrates and full- and part-time associate judges the same opportunities to receive training as other judges and magistrates.

OPPONENTS No concerns identified.
SAY: