

SUBJECT:	Authorizing a court to commute punishment of certain individuals
COMMITTEE:	Criminal Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment
VOTE:	9 ayes — Moody, Cook, Bhojani, Bowers, Darby, Harrison, Leach, C. Morales, Schatzline 0 nays
WITNESSES:	For — Nikki Pressley, Texas Public Policy Foundation (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i> : Terra Tucker, Alliance for Safety and Justice) Against — (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i> : Will Ramsay, 8th Judicial District Attorney’s Office; Erleigh Wiley, Criminal District Attorney; Joe Morris, Game Warden Peace Officers’ Association)
BACKGROUND:	Concerns have been raised that current law does not allow the state to adjust an individual’s sentence of imprisonment when information arises indicating that the sentence is not in the interest of justice.
DIGEST:	HJR 172 would authorize the Legislature to provide by general law for a court to grant a commutation of punishment to certain individuals serving a term of imprisonment. The ballot proposal would be presented to voters at an election on November 7, 2023, and would read: “The constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature to enact laws providing for a court to grant a commutation of punishment to certain individuals serving a term of imprisonment.”
NOTES:	The enabling legislation for HJR 172 is HB 4518, which is also on the daily House calendar for second reading consideration today. According to the Legislative Budget Board, the cost to the state for publication of the resolution would be \$204,406.