

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R3135 SMJ-D

S.B. 153
By: Harris
Jurisprudence
2/18/1999
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, Texas law requires a county to pay the court costs for involuntary mental health commitments. A county is authorized to seek reimbursement only from patients or persons responsible for a patient's estate. A number of counties charge court costs to a mental health facility designated to provide court-ordered mental health services. This bill would prohibit a county from requiring a mental health facility to pay any costs associated with an involuntary mental health commitment hearing or proceeding.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 153 prohibits a county from requiring a mental health facility to pay any costs associated with an involuntary mental health commitment hearing or proceeding.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 571.018, Health and Safety Code, by adding Subsection (j), to prohibit a county from requiring a mental health facility designated to provide court-ordered mental health services to pay a cost associated with a hearing or proceeding.

SECTION 2. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.