

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R3620 KCR-D

S.B. 601
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Criminal Justice
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Current Texas law allows the governor to issue one 30-day reprieve in any capital case. The administration of the death penalty includes the authority to grant a reprieve because of the possibility of mitigating information that would warrant a lesser sentence. In certain situations, the governor's ability to grant one 30-day reprieve may not be sufficient. As proposed, S.B. 601 allows the governor to grant multiple reprieves when warranted.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Article 48.01, Code of Criminal Procedure, to require the governor to have the power to grant one or more reprieves in any capital case for a period not to exceed thirty days for each reprieve.

SECTION 2. Effective date: January 1, 2004, if the accompanying constitutional amendment is approved by the voters.