

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

S.B. 949  
By: Kolkhorst  
Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Interested parties suggest that the state's potential liability for attorney's fees in certain cases heard by a special three-judge district court is too high. S.B. 949 seeks to impose a cap on the attorney's fees awarded in such a case.

### **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**

S.B. 949 amends the Government Code to prohibit a special three-judge district court from awarding attorney's fees in an amount that exceeds \$250,000 in a case assigned to the court due to the state, a state officer, or a state agency being a defendant in certain claims relating to the state's public school system or the apportionment of certain districts and in any related case consolidated with the case before the court.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2017.