

SUBJECT: Establishing grants for monitoring family violence victims and defendants

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Bohac, Anderson, Biedermann, Cole, Dominguez, Huberty, Rosenthal, Stickland

0 nays

1 absent — Coleman

WITNESSES: For — Alexandra Cantrell, Texas Council on Family Violence; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Robert Johnston, Anderson County; Jim Allison, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; Heather Bellino, Texas Advocacy Project; Alexis Tatum, Travis County Commissioners Court)

Against — None

On — Inna Klein, 214th District Court; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Reilly Webb, Office of the Governor)

BACKGROUND: Government Code sec. 772.006(a) requires the governor to establish a criminal justice division in the governor's office. Sec. 772.006(a)(9) requires this office to submit a biennial report to the Legislature reporting the division's activities during the previous two years.

Code of Criminal Procedure arts. 17.292 and 17.49 establish that magistrates in certain family violence cases may order a defendant to participate in a global positioning monitoring system or allow a victim to participate in such a system.

DIGEST: HB 1662 would require the criminal justice division of the governor's office to establish and administer a grant program to reimburse counties for all or part of the costs incurred from monitoring defendants and victims in family violence cases who participate in a global positioning

monitoring system.

Grant recipients could use received funds only for monitoring conducted to provide a measure of security and safety for a victim of family violence.

The criminal justice division would be required to establish:

- additional eligibility criteria for grant applicants;
- grant application procedures;
- guidelines relating to grant amounts;
- procedures for evaluating grant applications; and
- procedures for monitoring the use of a grant and ensuring compliance with the conditions of the grant.

The criminal justice division would have to include a detailed reporting of the results and performance of the grant program in its biennial report.

The bill would allow the criminal justice division to use any revenue available in order to carry out its provisions.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.