

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 655
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Intergovernmental Relations
2-27-97
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, a county or precinct officer authorized to collect certain fees by the commissioners court is required to assess a fee for processing a credit card payment. Major credit card issuers will not approve a merchant agreement in which a fee is assessed by the merchant for the use of a credit card. This bill allows a commissioners court to authorize the acceptance of a credit card for payment of fees, fines, court costs or other charges, but makes the assessment of a processing fee permissive instead of mandatory as provided by current law.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 655 allows a commissioners court to authorize the acceptance of a credit card for payment of fees, fines, court costs or other charges, but makes the assessment of a processing fee permissive instead of mandatory as provided by current law.

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 132.002(a), Local Government Code, to provide that a commissioners court may authorize a county or precinct officer to collect a fee for processing a payment by credit card. Makes conforming and nonsubstantive changes.

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