

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
76R14842 PAM-F

C.S.H.B. 1168  
By: Thompson (Ellis)  
Intergovernmental Relations  
5/13/1999  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **DIGEST**

Currently, many courthouses throughout the state maintain security checkpoints to prevent weapons and other items from entering the courthouse. Many counties provide employee identification cards which allow employees to bypass security checkpoints. However, many other people entering the courthouse are frequent visitors and are also not security risks. This bill would authorize certain county commissioners courts to issue identification cards which permit certain individuals to enter into certain county buildings without passing through security checkpoints, and authorizes a fee for those identification cards.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, C.S.H.B. 1168 authorizes certain county commissioners courts to issue identification cards which permit certain individuals to enter into certain county buildings without passing through security checkpoints, and authorizes a fee for those identification cards.

### **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 Chapter 291, Local Government Code, by adding Section 291.010, as follows:

Sec. 291.010. SECURITY SERVICES IDENTIFICATION CARDS. Authorizes a county commissioners court of a county with a population 2.8 million or more to sanction the issuance of an identification card which permits individuals to enter into a county building that houses a justice court, county court, county court at law, or district court without passing through the security services provided under Article 102.017, Code of Criminal Procedure and to set a fee for the issuance of the identification card to individuals other than county employees. Requires the commissioners court to adopt standards for issuing an identification card described by this section to ensure public safety and security. Provides that this section does not authorize a person to possess a firearm in a county building that houses a justice court, county court, county court at law, or district court. Provides that a person who possesses a firearm in any court described by this section or in any office used by the court without the court's written consent or without complying with any written regulations of the court is subject to penalties provided by Chapter 46, Penal Code.

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