

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
76R7351 RJA-F

H.B. 1896  
By: Keel (Barrientos)  
Criminal Justice  
5/13/1999  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, there is one criminal law magistrate in Travis County. This judge works for and is appointed by the district court judges. The law allows the district court judges to hire as many criminal law magistrates as they need. Furthermore, the law sets the salary of the criminal law magistrate so that it may not be less than that of the salary of a family law master. Travis County is responsible for paying these salaries. In the near future, a new county owned jail facility will be opened and the county will want to take over the functions of the magistrate and use county staff and judges. The duties of the county staff and judges acting in this capacity will be similar to, but less responsible than the duties of a criminal law magistrate, and accordingly the salary should reflect the duties. H.B. 1896 expands salary provisions for a criminal law magistrate in Travis County.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 1896 expands salary provisions for a criminal law magistrate in Travis County.

### **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 54.973(b), Government Code, to prohibit a salary from being less than that of a master appointed under Chapter 201A, Family Code, unless a lesser salary is recommended by the judges described by Section 54.971, Government Code, and approved by the commissioners court.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.