

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
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S.B. 1124  
By: Armbrister  
Criminal Justice  
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As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, some Texas counties refer a number of their domestic violence cases to mediation in hopes of working out a plea bargain. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges recommends that in cases in which family violence forms the basis of criminal charges, mediation is not an appropriate response. This bill would prohibit a court from referring or ordering victims or defendants in a criminal prosecution arising from family violence to mediation or other similar procedures.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 1124 prohibits a court from referring or ordering victims or defendants in a criminal prosecution arising from family violence to mediation or other similar procedures.

### **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 5, Code of Criminal Procedure, by adding Article 5.08, as follows:

Art. 5.08. MEDIATION IN FAMILY VIOLENCE CASES. Prohibits a court from referring or ordering a victim or a defendant involved in a criminal prosecution arising from family violence, to mediation, dispute resolution, arbitration, or other similar procedures, notwithstanding Article 26.13(g) or Section 11(a)(16), Article 42.12, of this code.

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