

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
79R1981 UM-D

S.B. 307
By: Duncan
Criminal Justice
3/17/2005
As Filed

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Currently, mental health court programs are limited to misdemeanor defendants when such a program might be appropriate in many felony cases.

As proposed, S.B. 307 expands the ability of a county to set up a mental health court program to include felonies as well as misdemeanors.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 616.002, Health and Safety Code, as follows:

Sec. 616.002. **AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH PROGRAM.** Authorizes the commissioners court of a county to establish a mental health court program to include persons who have been arrested for or charged with a felony.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2005.