

**SUBJECT:** Local governments assuming costs of criminal justice projects

**COMMITTEE:** Corrections — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Haggerty, Allen, Hodge, Ellis, Gray, Hopson, Isett, Ritter  
0 nays  
1 absent — Farrar

**WITNESSES:** For — Cecil Funderburgh, West Texas Central Texas Criminal Justice Advisory Committee; Brad Helbert and Jim Ray, Texas Association of Regional Councils of Government  
Against — None  
On — Camille Cain, Office of the Governor

**DIGEST:** CSHB 726 would eliminate the current requirement that the governor's criminal justice division establish procedures and policies that require that the costs of programs and projects funded to local general-purpose units of government be assumed by local revenue over five years.  
The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2001.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** CSHB 726 would allow local governments to be treated the same as other entities receiving grants from the governor's criminal justice division. While state agencies, school districts, and private, nonprofit corporations also receive grants, the division does not have to develop policies that require the costs of those programs to be assumed by the grantee over a given period.

**OPPONENTS SAY:** No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

In addition to eliminating a duty of the governor's criminal justice division, HB 726 as filed would have required the division to establish procedures and policies that would require regional criminal justice advisory committees to recommend, and the division to approve, the duration of projects, the eligibility of projects for renewal, and a schedule for applicants to assume the cost of projects.