

**SUBJECT:** Exempting DPRS from certain county document fees

**COMMITTEE:** Human Services — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Uresti, Naishtat, Wohlgemuth, Christian, McCall, Miller, Olivo, Reyna  
0 nays  
1 absent — Villarreal

**WITNESSES:** None

**BACKGROUND:** Human Resources Code, sec. 40.062 exempts the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS) from paying costs or fees for court proceedings, including filing fees, transfer fees, and judge’s and court reporter fees. Local Government Code, sec. 118.011 authorizes counties to charge certain set fees, including \$25 for a marriage license, \$2 for personal property records filing, and \$5 for certified papers. Sec. 118.052 allows counties to charge fees such as \$2 for letters of guardianship and \$4 for issuing documents.

**DIGEST:** HB 3194 would exempt DPRS from fees imposed by counties under Local Government Code, secs. 118.011 and 118.052.  
  
The bill would take effect September 1, 2003.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 3194 would save DPRS hundreds of dollars per year in fees paid to county clerks across the state for such documents as real estate records and birth and death certificates, which the agency uses in guardianship proceedings and investigations. The bill also would help streamline agency accounting processes by eliminating the need for staff time and effort to process these relatively small expenses. According to the fiscal note, this exemption would cost individual counties an insignificant amount.

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OPPONENTS      No apparent opposition.  
SAY: