

SUBJECT: Requiring the Office of Court Administration to create certain court forms

COMMITTEE: Criminal Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Collier, Zedler, K. Bell, J. González, Hunter, P. King, Moody,
Murr, Pacheco

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Emily Gerrick, Texas Fair Defense
Project)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Nicole Hudgens, Texas Values
Action)

On — Margie Johnson

DIGEST: HB 51 would require the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to create
and promulgate standard forms for use by courts in certain criminal
actions. The OCA would have to create nine specific forms relating to
waivers, acknowledgements, and admonishments listed in the bill.

OCA would have to update the forms as necessary, and courts would have
to accept the forms unless they were completed in a manner that caused a
substantive defect that could not be cured.

The Texas Supreme Court would have to set a date by which all criminal
courts would have to adopt and use the forms.

The Office of Court Administration would have to create and promulgate
the forms by September 1, 2020.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

