

SUBJECT: Creating a grant program for counties to fund GPS monitoring

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Coleman, Cason, Longoria, Lopez, Spiller, J. Turner

2 nays — Stucky, Anderson

1 absent — Stephenson

WITNESSES: For — Inna Klein, 214th District Court; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Melissa Shannon, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties; Jim Allison, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; Seetha Kulandaisamy, Texas Council on Family Violence; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court; Stephanie Hoffman; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jason Buckner, Office of the Governor)

BACKGROUND: Code of Criminal Procedure arts. 17.292 and 17.49 establish that magistrates in certain family violence cases are authorized to require as a condition of release on bond that a defendant participate in a global positioning monitoring system.

Some have called for a program to defray the costs imposed on counties by the GPS monitoring of indigent defendants in order to encourage the use of the technology and provide further security to victims of domestic violence.

DIGEST: HB 1906 would require the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division to establish and administer a grant program to reimburse counties for all or part of the costs incurred from monitoring defendants and victims in family violence cases who participate in a global positioning

monitoring system.

Grant recipients could use received funds only for monitoring conducted to provide a measure of security and safety for a victim of family violence.

The Criminal Justice Division would be required to establish:

- additional eligibility criteria for grant applicants;
- grant application procedures;
- guidelines relating to grant amounts;
- procedures for evaluating grant applications; and
- procedures for monitoring the use of a grant and ensuring compliance with the conditions of the grant.

The Criminal Justice Division would have to include details on the results and performance of the grant program in its biennial report to the Legislature on the division's activities.

The bill would allow the Criminal Justice Division to use any revenue available in order to carry out its provisions.

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, 2021.