

SUBJECT: Extending the period to file a special bill of review in certain proceedings

COMMITTEE: Criminal Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Moody, Cook, Bhojani, Bowers, Darby, Harrison, Leach, C.  
Morales, Schatzline

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Chad Heck, Lisa Heck, Carrie Lee, Cory Lee, Corine Rackley, Ashley Redding, Bad Boy Bail Bonds; Billy Olson, Brad Pursley, Billy Olson Bail Bonds; Paul Schuder, PBT; Roger Moore, Ken Good, Professional Bondsmen of Texas; Jerry Redding, Spec's; Akanksha Balekai, Texas Appleseed; and 15 individuals)

Against — Rick Thompson, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas (*Registered, but did not testify*: M Paige Williams, Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that extending the time limit within which a bail bondsman may return a defendant to the appropriate court and still recover the money paid out under the bond would better incentivize a bail bondsman to return a defendant who failed to appear in court.

DIGEST: HB 1709 would extend the final date on which the surety on a bond could file a special bill of review from no later than two years to no later than the fourth anniversary of the date a final judgement was entered in a bond forfeiture proceeding.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023, and would apply only to a bail bond for which a final judgement of forfeiture was entered on or after the effective date.