

**SUBJECT:** Establishing a grant program to offset DNA collection costs

**COMMITTEE:** Homeland Security & Public Safety — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 6 ayes — Guillen, Bowers, Dorazio, Harless, Holland, Troxclair  
1 nay — Jarvis Johnson  
2 absent — Canales, Goodwin

**WITNESSES:** For — Cheryl Lieck, Chambers County District Attorney’s Office; Brian Hawthorne, Sheriffs Association of Texas (*Registered, but did not testify*; Staley Heatly, 46th District Attorney; Will Ramsay, 8th Judicial District Attorney’s Office; Sloan Byerly, ANDE; Jacquie Benestante, Autism Society of Texas; Eric Carcerano, Chambers County District Attorney; Erleigh Wiley, Criminal District Attorney, Kaufman County; M Paige Williams, Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Cruzot; James Parnell, Dallas Police Association; Ashley Spence, DNA Justice Project; Joshua Normand, Harris County Deputies’ Organization Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #39; Ray Hunt, Houston Police Officers’ Union; Ray Scifres, Sheriffs’ Association of Texas; AJ Louderback, Texas Sheriffs Regional Alliance)  
  
Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Quynh-Huong Nguyen, Woori Juntos)  
  
On — Brady Mills, Texas DPS Crime Lab

**BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised that too few avenues are available to local booking agencies to help offset the costs of creating DNA records for defendants upon their arrest.

**DIGEST:** HB 3958 would require the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish and implement a grant program, from money appropriated or otherwise available for that purpose, to assist law enforcement agencies in taking a DNA sample after arresting a defendant.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023. DPS would be required to adopt rules necessary to implement the bill and would establish the grant program as soon as practicable after the bill's effective date.