

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 480  
By: Craddick (Bivins)  
Criminal Justice  
4-29-97  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

Midland County is one of the largest jurisdictions still served by the county attorney/district attorney configuration. Most counties with populations over 25,000 have either gone to a combined office of criminal district attorney or have revised the statutory responsibilities for the offices by vesting all of the criminal prosecution in the district attorney, with the county attorney primarily providing the county with civil representation. These types of configurations allow for specialization, which can improve the judicial process. This bill will set forth the responsibilities of the district attorney for the 142nd Judicial District.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 480 sets forth the responsibilities of the district attorney for the 142nd Judicial District.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 43.157, Government Code, to provide that the district attorney represents the state in criminal cases in all district and inferior courts other than municipal courts having jurisdiction in Midland County. Provides that the district attorney has all of the powers, duties, and privileges conferred by law on district and prosecuting attorneys in certain matters.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.