

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 786  
By: Gallego (Ellis)  
Jurisprudence  
4-18-97  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, the Texas Judicial Council (council) is authorized to collect statistics pertaining to the amount and character of the civil and criminal business transacted by the courts of the state. The council is authorized to prescribe procedures and forms for the supplying of court statistics, but does not explicitly have authority to define the terms used in such procedures and forms. Thus, some court officials may interpret terms in such a manner as to result in discrepancies from court to court in the statistics being reported. This bill will require the council to prescribe definitions of terms used for supplying statistics and other information.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 786 requires the Texas Judicial Council to prescribe definitions of terms used for supplying statistics and other information.

### **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 71.035(b), Government Code, to require, rather than authorize, the Texas Judicial Council (council) to prescribe definitions of terms used in supplying statistics and information to the council.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.