

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.B. 1383  
By: Harris  
Jurisprudence  
4-21-97  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **DIGEST**

Currently, judges in county criminal court cannot appoint magistrates. In the interest of judicial efficiency the county criminal court judges of Tarrant County have requested the ability to appoint magistrates. C.S.S.B. 1383 requires each judge of a county criminal court of Tarrant County to appoint a certain number of magistrates set by the commissioners court.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, C.S.S.B. 1383 requires each judge of a county criminal court of Tarrant County to appoint a certain number of magistrates set by the commissioners court.

### **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 54.651(a), Government Code, to add the judges of the county criminal courts of Tarrant County to the judges required to jointly appoint a certain number of magistrates set by the commissioners court.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 54.656(a), Government Code, to authorize a judge to refer to a magistrate any criminal case for proceedings involving an occupational driver's license hearing.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 54.659, Government Code, to require a court to provide a court reporter to record the proceedings before a magistrate, at the request of a party in a felony case.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.  
Effective date: upon passage.

### **SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES**

#### SECTION 1.

Amends Section 54.651(a), Government Code, to make a nonsubstantive change.

#### SECTION 2.

Amends Section 54.656(a), Government Code, to make a nonsubstantive change.