

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
77R4589 GWK-D

H.B. 1659  
By: Ritter (Staples)  
Criminal Justice  
4/27/2001  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Currently, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (department) returns defendants or inmates to a state court if that court issues a bench warrant because the offender's attendance is required for a court proceeding. Sometimes the defendant or inmate is released from custody either on bail or because the charges against the person are dismissed. Although the department is required to maintain a victims notification system to provide victims information on the location of an offender, the county is not required to inform the department if a person is released. H.B. 1659 requires a county to immediately notify the department if an inmate or defendant transferred from the department to the county is released on bail or due to a dismissal of charges on which the person was convicted.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 24, Code of Criminal Procedure, by adding Article 24.131, as follows:

Art. 24.131. NOTIFICATION TO DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE. Requires the county, if after the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (department) transfers a defendant or inmate to a county under Article 24.13 and before that person is returned to the department the person is released on bail or the charges on which the person was convicted and for which the person was transferred to the department are dismissed, to immediately notify an officer designated by the department of the dismissal.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.