

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 17, 2009

TO: Honorable Jeff Wentworth, Chair, Senate Committee on Jurisprudence

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB670 by Martinez Fischer (Relating to a qualified privilege of a journalist not to testify.),
Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Civil Practice and Remedies Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure relating to a qualified privilege of a journalist not to testify. The bill would provide that a journalist, as defined, may not be forced to divulge certain information obtained by the journalist except in an official proceeding, as defined, under certain conditions. To the extent the bill would amend procedures regarding privileges of journalists, the amendments are not anticipated to increase judicial workloads or result in a fiscal implication to the State. The bill would take immediate effect if the bill receives two-thirds the vote of all members. Otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2009.

Local Government Impact

The provisions of the bill are not expected to cause any increase in judicial workload; therefore, no fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 302 Office of the Attorney General

LBB Staff: JOB, MN, TB, TP, DB