

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 26, 2009**

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

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

**IN RE: SB915** by Ellis (Relating to a qualified privilege of a journalist not to testify.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

<b>No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b>
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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 a court proceeding, under certain conditions. To the extent the bill would amend court procedures regarding privileges of journalists, the amendments are not anticipated to increase judicial workloads or result in a fiscal implication to the State.

**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