

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 19, 2015

TO: Honorable John Kuempel, Chair, House Committee on General Investigating & Ethics

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB10 by Huffman (Relating to the investigation and prosecution of offenses against public administration, including ethics offenses.), **As Engrossed**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Government Code to establish a Public Integrity Unit within the Texas Ranger Division of the Department of Public Safety (DPS). It is assumed the establishment of a Public Integrity Unit within the Texas Ranger Division would result in costs to DPS. However, the agency has indicated that while the bill would require additional investigative resources devoted to public corruption investigations, the Texas Ranger Division could absorb the additional workload within existing resources.

The bill would also direct the Comptroller to pay from appropriations made specifically for enforcement of public integrity prosecutions reasonable amounts incurred by a prosecuting attorney for extraordinary costs of prosecution of an offense against public administration. The Comptroller has indicated the costs to the state resulting from this requirement can not be determined.

Local Government Impact

It is assumed any costs associated with prosecutions resulting from the bill would be to some degree offset by the bill's requirement for the Comptroller to pay reasonable amounts incurred by a prosecuting attorney for extraordinary costs of prosecution of an offense against public administration.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 302 Office of the Attorney General, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts, 405 Department of Public Safety, 454 Department of Insurance

LBB Staff: UP, FR, AI, JAW