

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1548
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Author:	Sen. Thompson
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Bill Analysis

SB 1548 provides that each county, instead of its district attorney, may establish a drug court program. The board of county commissioners may enter into a contract with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to establish and maintain the program. The commissioners may execute a single administrative contract in the county receiving payment for programs that encompass multiple counties. The commissioners are directed to designate a coordinator upon signing the contract and, if employees are needed to carry out the program, the county subcontract with its court services subcontractor to provide 1 or more drug court program staff or use a combination of county employees and staff provided through the subcontractor. The measure provides that the county or its subcontractor shall oversee its coordinator as well as communicate with the Department to monitor the performance and success of the drug court program. The measure also provides that a juvenile court program may be established. Any judge assigned a criminal case where drug court processing appears to be more appropriate for the offender may consider eligibility for the drug court program. The judge must give the district attorney a chance to object; however, the judge may proceed with placing the offender in the drug court program if the judge determines the person would best be served by the program. The coordinator shall file a form with the district attorney if a person wishes to be voluntarily placed in the program.

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