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In some parts of Texas, it's been a tough time for bail bondsman, and bounty hunters.

The reasons are many, but one big factor...jail overcrowding.

If you are arrested, and a bond is set, your next call is to a bail bondsman who, for a price, promises the court you'll appear for trial.

They promise by bailing you out of jail, and are on the hook for the money if you skip town. And Maria Salinas Avelar of Lone Star Bail Bonds says, she's glad she owns a business in Smith County and not in Houston.

Houston bailbond operations are hurting because the jail is so crowded, many prisoners are being released on personal recognizance, or PR bonds.

That means, they get out of jail free.

That also means, a bail bond company wasn't needed, and the strain in Harris County is showing.

Here, judges are less likely to go the PR route.

The other issue in Houston is that some illegal aliens are running away to their home

country.

Avelar says bondsmen in Harris County are also responsible for the entire amount of the bond, but that's not a big issue here.

In Smith County, they are only on the hook for 10%.

That's why Lone Star Bail Bonds will not be moving anytime soon.

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