

By: West

S.B. No. 221

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the disciplinary power of the State Commission on  
Judicial Conduct to issue private reprimands.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 33.001(a)(10), Government Code, is  
amended to read as follows:

(10) "Sanction" means an order issued by the  
commission under Section 1-a(8), Article V, Texas Constitution,  
providing for a [~~private or~~] public admonition, warning, or  
reprimand or requiring that a person obtain additional training or  
education.

SECTION 2. Section 33.0212(b), Government Code, is amended  
to read as follows:

(b) Not later than the 90th day following the date  
commission staff files with the commission the report required by  
Subsection (a), the commission shall determine any action to be  
taken regarding the complaint, including:

- (1) a public sanction;
- (2) [~~a private sanction,~~
- [~~(3)~~] a suspension;
- (3) [~~(4)~~] an order of education;
- (4) [~~(5)~~] an acceptance of resignation in lieu of  
discipline;
- (5) [~~(6)~~] a dismissal; or

1           (6) [~~(7)~~] an initiation of formal proceedings.

2           SECTION 3. Section 33.032(d), Government Code, is amended  
3 to read as follows:

4           (d) The disciplinary record of a judge [~~, including any~~  
5 ~~private sanctions,~~] is admissible in a subsequent proceeding before  
6 the commission, a special master, a special court of review, or a  
7 review tribunal.

8           SECTION 4. Section 33.033(b), Government Code, is amended  
9 to read as follows:

10          (b) The communication shall inform the complainant that:

11           (1) the case has been dismissed;

12           (2) an [~~a private sanction or~~] order of additional  
13 education has been issued by the commission;

14           (3) a public sanction has been issued by the  
15 commission;

16           (4) formal proceedings have been instituted; or

17           (5) a judge has resigned from judicial office in lieu  
18 of disciplinary action by the commission.

19          SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
20 a sanction issued by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct on or  
21 after the effective date of this Act.

22          SECTION 6. This Act takes effect January 1, 2026, but only  
23 if the constitutional amendment proposed by the 89th Legislature,  
24 Regular Session, 2025, regarding the disciplinary powers of the  
25 State Commission on Judicial Conduct is approved by the voters. If  
26 that amendment is not approved by the voters, this Act has no  
27 effect.