

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 296  
By: Goodman  
Judicial Affairs  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Current law allows a candidate for the Texas Supreme Court or the Court of Criminal Appeals to either pay a filing fee (presently \$3,000) *or* file a petition with a minimum number of signatures (presently 5,000).

Requiring both signatures and a filing fee would indicate a measure of statewide support for a person's candidacy. The 77th Legislature passed a similar bill in 2001, but this was vetoed by the governor.

H.B. 296 requires a candidate for either court who chooses to pay the filing fee to also submit a petition with 50 signatures from each of the state's 14 court of appeals districts.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

H.B. 296 adds Section 172.021 to the Election Code to require a candidate to file a petition with 50 signatures from each of the state's 14 court of appeals districts, in addition to paying the filing fee.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2003.