

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 1681
By: Stick
County Affairs
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently, a county auditor's salary is capped at the level of the highest salary set by the commissioner's court for a non-judicial elected official of the same county. However, other non-elected positions in the county do not have similar limitations to their compensation.

As accounting rules and financial statutes continue to become more complex, governments must be able to attract and retain highly qualified and experienced financial professionals. House Bill 1681 would allow the district judges who appoint the county auditor, in certain larger counties, to also set the annual salary of the position, thereby removing the salary cap.

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

SECTION 1. Amends Section 152.032, Local Government Code, by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d), as follows:

(a) Makes a conforming change.

(d) This subsection applies only to a county with a population of more than 800,000 that uses an automated system to enhance internal controls of county finances through the use of automated edit checks of its automated purchasing system and its comprehensive automated payroll system. The amount of the compensation and allowances of a county auditor in a county governed by this subsection shall be set as provided by Section 152.031 (County Auditor's Salary) and is not limited by the amount of compensation and allowances received by any other county employee.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or if the Act does not receive the necessary vote, the Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE

Amends Section 152.032, Local Government Code, by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d) as well as adding (d)(a) and (d)(b).