

By: Hill

H.B. No. 496

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the payment of salaries, compensation, and expenses by
3 counties comprising an administrative judicial region.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 74.043, Government Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read
7 as follows:

8 (c) The [~~Except as provided by Section 74.051, the~~]
9 salaries, compensation, and expenses shall be paid through the
10 county budget process of each county in the region in proportion to
11 the population of the counties comprising the region and in
12 accordance with this section [~~and on certificates of approval of~~
13 ~~the presiding judge~~].

14 (d) Not later than the 60th day before the first day of the
15 earliest of the fiscal years of the counties comprising an
16 administrative region, the presiding judge of the region shall
17 present to the commissioners courts of each county a proposed
18 budget for the region's next fiscal year. Each county shall pay its
19 proportion of the salaries, compensation, and expenses included in
20 the proposed budget if the amount of the proposed budget, minus any
21 increase attributable to an increase in the actual cost of
22 professional liability insurance for the presiding judge or the
23 presiding judge's salary set under Section 74.051, is the same
24 amount as or less than the budget of the previous fiscal year.

1 (e) A proposed budget for an administrative region that
2 increases the region's budget over the previous fiscal year's
3 budget, other than an increase attributable to an increase in the
4 actual cost of professional liability insurance for the presiding
5 judge or the presiding judge's salary set under Section 74.051, may
6 be adopted only if the proposed budget is approved by resolution or
7 order of the commissioners courts representing counties that
8 collectively paid during the previous fiscal year at least 51
9 percent of the region's salaries, compensation, and expenses not
10 paid by state appropriations.

11 SECTION 2. Sections 74.061(e) and (g), Government Code, are
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (e) When a district, statutory probate, constitutional
14 county, or statutory county court judge is assigned under this
15 chapter to a court outside his own district or county, the judge, in
16 addition to all other compensation authorized by law, is entitled
17 to receive his actual expenses in going to and returning from his
18 assignment and his actual living expenses while in the performance
19 of his duties under the assignment. The county in which the duties
20 are performed shall pay the expenses out of the general fund of the
21 county [~~on accounts certified and approved by the presiding judge~~
22 ~~of the administrative region for that county~~].

23 (g) An active judge or justice of the supreme court, the
24 court of criminal appeals, or a court of appeals assigned under this
25 subchapter is not entitled to receive any additional compensation
26 for serving as a visiting judge. A court of appeals justice
27 assigned to a court outside his own court of appeals district, a

1 justice of the supreme court, or a judge of the court of criminal
2 appeals is entitled to receive actual expenses in going to and
3 returning from assignment and actual living expenses while in the
4 performance of duties under the assignment. The county in which the
5 duties are performed shall pay the expenses out of the county's
6 general fund [~~on accounts certified and approved by the presiding~~
7 ~~judge of the administrative region for that county~~].

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.