

1-1 By: Naishtat (Senate Sponsor - Wentworth) H.B. No. 3468  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 1, 2009;  
1-3 May 6, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Jurisprudence; May 14, 2009, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 14, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the selection, duties, and compensation of a presiding  
1-9 criminal judge in Travis County.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 25.2292(f), Government Code, is amended  
1-12 to read as follows:

1-13 (f) The judge of a county court at law shall be paid an  
1-14 annual salary that is at least equal to the salary paid district  
1-15 judges from the general revenue fund of the state, but not more than  
1-16 \$1,000 less than the annual salary, including supplements, received  
1-17 by district judges in the county. For purposes of determining the  
1-18 annual salary of a judge of a county court at law under this  
1-19 section, the total annual salary received by a district judge in the  
1-20 county does not include compensation paid to the presiding criminal  
1-21 judge of Travis County under Section 75.016.

1-22 SECTION 2. Section 25.2293, Government Code, is amended by  
1-23 adding Subsection (m) to read as follows:

1-24 (m) For purposes of determining the annual salary of a judge  
1-25 of a statutory probate court as provided by Section 25.0023, the  
1-26 total annual salary received by a district judge in the county does  
1-27 not include compensation paid to the presiding criminal judge of  
1-28 Travis County under Section 75.016.

1-29 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 75, Government Code, is  
1-30 amended by adding Section 75.016 to read as follows:

1-31 Sec. 75.016. PRESIDING CRIMINAL JUDGE OF TRAVIS COUNTY.

1-32 (a) The judges of the Travis County district courts that give  
1-33 preference to criminal cases shall elect from among those judges a  
1-34 presiding criminal judge for the county for a two-year term  
1-35 expiring September 30 of each odd-numbered year.

1-36 (b) The presiding criminal judge, with respect to the Travis  
1-37 County district courts that give preference to criminal cases,  
1-38 shall:

1-39 (1) preside at all meetings of the criminal judges,  
1-40 except when absent, in which case any other of those judges may  
1-41 preside;

1-42 (2) implement and execute the local district court  
1-43 rules of administration for those courts, including assigning all  
1-44 capital murder cases to the proper court on a rotating basis;

1-45 (3) appoint any special or standing committees  
1-46 necessary or desirable for the administration of those courts;

1-47 (4) address administrative issues on an emergency  
1-48 basis for the criminal courts, provided that the presiding criminal  
1-49 judge's decisions regarding those issues may be reviewed at the  
1-50 next meeting of the judges of those courts;

1-51 (5) supervise the budget and fiscal matters of the  
1-52 criminal courts;

1-53 (6) monitor and serve as liaison regarding any  
1-54 legislation amending the Penal Code or Code of Criminal Procedure  
1-55 and any other legislation affecting the business of those courts;  
1-56 and

1-57 (7) serve as a liaison to the commissioners court of  
1-58 the county and appear before the commissioners court as necessary.

1-59 (c) The Commissioners Court of Travis County may set  
1-60 additional compensation to be paid to the presiding criminal judge  
1-61 by the county in any amount that does not exceed the amount the  
1-62 local administrative district judge of Travis County receives from  
1-63 this state. Notwithstanding any other law, compensation paid the  
1-64 presiding criminal judge under this subsection is not included as

2-1 part of the judge's combined salary from state and county sources  
2-2 for purposes of the salary limitations provided by Section 659.012.

2-3 SECTION 4. The judges of the Travis County district courts  
2-4 that give preference to criminal cases shall elect the presiding  
2-5 criminal judge as required by Section 75.016, Government Code, as  
2-6 added by this Act, for a term beginning October 1, 2009.

2-7 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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