

By: Wentworth

S.B. No. 497

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to compensation paid to certain judges and justices.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (b), Section 26.006, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) To receive a supplement under Subsection (a), a county judge must file with the comptroller's judiciary section [~~Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System~~] an affidavit stating that at least 40 percent of the functions that the judge performs are judicial functions. [~~The office of court administration shall send the affidavit to the comptroller.~~]

SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 659.0125, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Notwithstanding Section 659.012 or any other law, a district judge who presides over multidistrict litigation involving claims for asbestos-related or silica-related injuries is entitled to receive, in addition to all other compensation, expenses, and perquisites authorized by law, the maximum amount of compensation set by the Texas Judicial Council for a presiding judge under Section 74.051(b). The annual amount must be apportioned over 12 equal monthly payments and be paid to the judge by the comptroller's judiciary section [~~Texas Judicial Council~~] for each month during which the judge retains jurisdiction over the claims.

1 SECTION 3. Section 659.0445, Government Code, is amended by
2 adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

3 (d) The commissioners court of a county may provide
4 longevity pay calculated in accordance with this section to a judge
5 or justice described by Subsection (a) who:

6 (1) previously served as a statutory county court
7 judge in the county;

8 (2) is not otherwise eligible for longevity pay under
9 Subsection (b); and

10 (3) would be entitled to longevity pay under this
11 section if the service credit the judge or justice earned as a
12 statutory county court judge was established in the applicable
13 retirement system.

14 (e) Notwithstanding any other law, longevity pay that is
15 paid to a judge or justice under this section is not included as
16 part of the judge's or justice's combined salary from state and
17 county sources for purposes of the salary limitations provided by
18 Section 659.012.

19 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.