

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 82ND LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 28, 2011**

**TO:** Honorable Jim Jackson, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

**FROM:** John S O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HJR61** by Raymond (Proposing a constitutional amendment to increase the terms of district judges to six years.), **As Introduced**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated,** other than the cost of publication.

The cost to the state for publication of the resolution is \$105,495.

The joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment of Section 7, Article V, Texas Constitution, to increase the terms of district judges from four years to six years. A temporary provision is also included which clarifies the application of the proposed amendment to a district judge whose term began prior to the effective date. According to the Secretary of State, the bill would result in a loss of revenue to the General Revenue Fund in fiscal year 2016 for that year's primary season due to less filing fees (144 races x 1.5 candidates x \$2,500 filing fee in higher county population brackets + 73 races x 1.5 candidates x \$1,500 filing fee in lower county population brackets = \$704,520, where 1.5 represents the average number of candidates for a given primary). The resolution would be submitted to the voters on November 8, 2011.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 307 Secretary of State

**LBB Staff:** JOB, JT, ZS, TB, BTA