

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 1710

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a cost-of-living increase in compensation for district judges and longevity pay for certain judges and justices.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Subchapter A, Chapter 32, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER A. ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION PAID BY COUNTY

~~[FOR EXTRAJUDICIAL SERVICES]~~

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 32, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 32.002 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.002. COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE. (a) If the state has not increased the state salary paid to a district judge during the preceding three-year period, the commissioners court of a county may pay each judge of a district court having jurisdiction in the county an annual cost-of-living increase in an amount not to exceed 10 percent of the judge's combined salary from state and county sources. Notwithstanding any other law, compensation paid to a judge under this section is not included as part of the judge's combined salary from state and county sources for purposes of the salary limitations provided by Section 659.012.

(b) If the state increases the state salary paid to a district judge after a commissioners court of a county begins paying a cost-of-living increase under this section, the commissioners court of a county may stop paying the cost-of-living

1 increase, or may continue paying that increase.

2 SECTION 3. Section 659.0445(b), Government Code, is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 (b) The monthly amount of longevity pay under this section
5 to which a judge or justice described by Subsection (a) is entitled:

6 (1) is equal to the product of .031 multiplied by the
7 amount of the judge's or justice's current monthly state salary; and

8 (2) becomes payable beginning with the month following
9 the month in which the judge or justice completes 10 [~~16~~] years of
10 service for which credit is established in the applicable
11 retirement system.

12 SECTION 4. Section 659.0445(b), Government Code, as amended
13 by this Act, applies to longevity pay payable to a judge or justice
14 after September 1, 2013, regardless of the date the judge or justice
15 first becomes entitled to longevity pay.

16 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.