

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 83RD LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 28, 2013

TO: Honorable Tryon D. Lewis, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: **HB1710** by Raymond (Relating to a cost-of-living increase in compensation for district judges.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend Chapter 32 of the Government Code to authorize a county to pay a district judge an annual cost-of-living increase not to exceed 10 percent of the judge's combined salary from state and county sources if the state has not increased the state salary paid to the judge during the preceding three-year period. The cost-of-living increase would not be included as part of the judges salary for purposes of the salary limitation provided by Section 659.012. The bill would require a county to stop paying the judge the cost-of-living increase if the state increases the salary paid to the judge after the county begins paying the cost-of-living increase.

The bill would take effect January 1, 2014.

Local Government Impact

There could be costs to a county that chose to pay a cost-of-living increase pay to applicable district judges; however, the amounts would vary depending on the number of eligible judges and the amount of the increases. It is assumed that a county would only chose to pay increased amounts if sufficient resources are available or it would not result in a negative fiscal impact; therefore, no significant fiscal impact is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 304
Comptroller of Public Accounts

LBB Staff: UP, CL, ZS, TP, TB