

By: Hunter

H.C.R. No. 142

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Judicial salaries in Texas are consistently lower  
2 than those of other states with similar populations, and the state  
3 judiciary has received only two pay raises since 2000; and

4           WHEREAS, The Judicial Compensation Commission was created in  
5 2007 to recommend appropriate salaries for judges of the Texas  
6 Supreme Court, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the courts of  
7 appeals, and the district courts; since its inception, the JCC has  
8 issued a report during each state legislative session; the only  
9 upgrade in compensation came after the commission's 2012  
10 endorsement of a 21 percent raise in judicial salaries; the  
11 legislature voted to increase wages by 12 percent; and

12           WHEREAS, The Texas judiciary plays a fundamental role in  
13 upholding the rule of law and safeguarding the rights and  
14 protections guaranteed to citizens by the state and federal  
15 constitutions, and competitive wages help to attract and retain the  
16 most qualified and capable judges for courts across the Lone Star  
17 State; now, therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas  
19 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house  
20 of representatives to create a joint interim committee to study  
21 state judicial salaries; and, be it further

22           RESOLVED, That the study include the creation of a formula to  
23 calculate state judicial salaries, examining the salaries of the  
24 highest appellate courts of the nine most populous states other

1 than Texas, the salaries of judges on the U.S. Courts of Appeals,  
2 and the average starting base salaries of first-year associate  
3 attorneys at the five largest law firms in Texas; and, be it further

4       RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be  
5 governed by such general rules and policies for joint interim  
6 committees as the 85th Legislature may adopt.