

By: Hinojosa

S.C.R. No. 57

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

5 WHEREAS, The Judicial Compensation Commission was created in
6 2007 to recommend appropriate salaries for judges of the Texas
7 Supreme Court, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the courts of
8 appeals, and the district courts; since its inception, the JCC has
9 issued a report during each state legislative session; the only
10 upgrade in compensation came after the commission's 2012
11 endorsement of a 21.5 percent raise in judicial salaries; the
12 legislature voted to increase wages by 12 percent; and

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

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

23 RESOLVED, That the study include the creation of a formula to
24 calculate state judicial salaries, examining the salaries of the

1 highest appellate courts of the nine most populous states other
2 than Texas, the salaries of judges on the United States Courts of
3 Appeals, and the average starting base salaries of first-year
4 associate attorneys at the five largest law firms in Texas; and, be
5 it further

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