

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD  
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 17, 2019

**TO:** Honorable Garnet Coleman, Chair, House Committee on County Affairs

**FROM:** John McGeady, Assistant Director     Sarah Keyton, Assistant Director  
Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB1624** by Thompson, Senfronia (Relating to the annual state contribution to counties for statutory probate court judge salaries.), **As Introduced**

**Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds** for HB1624, As Introduced: a negative impact of (\$1,584,000) through the biennium ending August 31, 2021.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds
2020	(\$792,000)
2021	(\$792,000)
2022	(\$792,000)
2023	(\$792,000)
2024	(\$792,000)

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund 1
2020	(\$792,000)
2021	(\$792,000)
2022	(\$792,000)
2023	(\$792,000)
2024	(\$792,000)

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would amend the Government Code to set the amount of the state contribution to each county with a statutory county court or statute probate court at 60 percent of the salary of a district judge each fiscal year (\$84,000).

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

**Methodology**

State judicial compensation is traditionally met through a mix of General Revenue and Judicial Fund No. 573 funding, however for the past several fiscal years Judicial Fund No. 573 revenues have not been sufficient to meet all judicial salary obligations. Due to this, General Revenue funding has been used to meet the remaining obligations. Therefore, this estimate assumes General Revenue funding would be needed to cover the full state obligations for these provisions.

Under the provisions of the bill, the state's contribution to each county with a statutory probate court would increase from \$40,000 each fiscal year to an amount equal to 60 percent of the state base salary of a district judge (\$84,000). In fiscal year 2018, the state contributed supplements to 18 statutory probate courts. This analysis assumes the same number of statutory probate courts each year, for a total increase of \$1,584,000 for the 2020-21 biennium ( $\$84,000 - \$40,000 = \$44,000 \times 18 = \$792,000$  each year).

**Local Government Impact**

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

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

**LBB Staff:** WP, AF, MW, DA