

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 87TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 26, 2021

TO: Honorable Jeff Leach, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB4345 by Jetton (relating to the powers and duties of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.),
Committee Report 1st House, Substituted

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB4345, Committee Report 1st House, Substituted : a negative impact of (\$201,030) through the biennium ending August 31, 2023.

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:

| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</i> |
|--------------------|---|
| 2022 | (\$100,515) |
| 2023 | (\$100,515) |
| 2024 | (\$100,515) |
| 2025 | (\$100,515) |
| 2026 | (\$100,515) |

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund</i> | <i>Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2021</i> |
|--------------------|--|---|
| 2022 | (\$100,515) | 1.0 |
| 2023 | (\$100,515) | 1.0 |
| 2024 | (\$100,515) | 1.0 |
| 2025 | (\$100,515) | 1.0 |
| 2026 | (\$100,515) | 1.0 |

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would amend the Government Code to allow the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC) to accept complaints, conduct investigations, and take other actions authorized by Government Code Chapter 33 or Section 1-a, Article V of the Texas Constitution with respect to candidates for judicial office in the same manner the commission is authorized to take those actions with respect to a judge.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.

Methodology

Costs reflected in the table above are based on information provided by SCJC.

According to the SCJC, the agency typically experiences a 30 percent increase in complaint filings during an election season. This analysis assumes case filings would increase and that an additional Attorney position (1.0 FTE) would be required to identify, investigate, and present additional campaign related cases for resolution. The table above reflects General Revenue costs for the Attorney position with salaries totaling \$75,000 and operating and payroll related benefit costs totaling \$25,515 each fiscal year.

Local Government Impact

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

Source Agencies: 242 Comm On Judicial Conduct

LBB Staff: JMc, SLE, MW, BH