

By: Leach

H.B. No. 2779

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the compensation of a district judge and the associated  
3 retirement benefits of certain other elected state officials.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 659.012(a), Government Code, is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 (a) Notwithstanding Section 659.011 and subject to  
8 Subsections (b) and (b-1):

9 (1) a judge of a district court is entitled to an  
10 annual base salary from the state as set by the General  
11 Appropriations Act in an amount equal to at least \$172,494  
12 [~~\$140,000~~], except that the combined base salary of a district  
13 judge from all state and county sources, including compensation for  
14 any extrajudicial services performed on behalf of the county, may  
15 not exceed the amount that is \$5,000 less than the maximum combined  
16 base salary from all state and county sources for a justice of a  
17 court of appeals other than a chief justice as determined under this  
18 subsection;

19 (2) a justice of a court of appeals other than the  
20 chief justice is entitled to an annual base salary from the state in  
21 the amount equal to 110 percent of the state base salary of a  
22 district judge as set by the General Appropriations Act, except  
23 that the combined base salary of a justice of the court of appeals  
24 other than the chief justice from all state and county sources,

1 including compensation for any extrajudicial services performed on  
2 behalf of the county, may not exceed the amount that is \$5,000 less  
3 than the base salary for a justice of the supreme court as  
4 determined under this subsection;

5 (3) a justice of the supreme court other than the chief  
6 justice or a judge of the court of criminal appeals other than the  
7 presiding judge is entitled to an annual base salary from the state  
8 in the amount equal to 120 percent of the state base salary of a  
9 district judge as set by the General Appropriations Act; and

10 (4) the chief justice or presiding judge of an  
11 appellate court is entitled to an annual base salary from the state  
12 in the amount equal to \$2,500 more than the state base salary  
13 provided for the other justices or judges of the court, except that  
14 the combined base salary of the chief justice of a court of appeals  
15 from all state and county sources may not exceed the amount equal to  
16 \$2,500 less than the base salary for a justice of the supreme court  
17 as determined under this subsection.

18 SECTION 2. Section [814.103](#)(a), Government Code, is amended  
19 to read as follows:

20 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (a-1) or (b), the  
21 standard service retirement annuity for service credited in the  
22 elected class of membership is an amount equal to the number of  
23 years of service credit in that class, times 2.3 percent of \$140,000  
24 ~~[the state base salary, excluding longevity pay payable under~~  
25 ~~Section [659.0445](#) and as adjusted from time to time, being paid to a~~  
26 ~~district judge as set by the General Appropriations Act in~~  
27 ~~accordance with Section [659.012](#)(a)].~~

1           SECTION 3. Notwithstanding Section 659.012(a), Government  
2 Code, as amended by this Act, a judge of a district court is  
3 entitled to an annual base salary from the state as set by the  
4 General Appropriations Act in an amount equal to at least \$155,400  
5 for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023, and ending  
6 August 31, 2024, and that amount is the annual base salary to be  
7 used for the purpose of calculating any other judicial salaries by  
8 reference to that section for the state fiscal year beginning  
9 September 1, 2023, and ending August 31, 2024.

10           SECTION 4. Section 814.103(a), Government Code, as amended  
11 by this Act, applies only to a member of the elected class of the  
12 Employees Retirement System of Texas who retires on or after the  
13 effective date of this Act. A member who retires before the  
14 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect  
15 immediately before that date, and the former law is continued in  
16 effect for that purpose.

17           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.