

By: Sparks

S.B. No. 717

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the additional compensation certain counties pay to judges and justices for extrajudicial services.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 25A, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 25A.0115 to read as follows:

Sec. 25A.0115. AUTHORITY FOR ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION. (a) The commissioners court of a county may pay the judges of the business court having jurisdiction in the county additional compensation in an amount not to exceed the limitations provided in Section 659.012 for extrajudicial services performed by the business court judges.

(b) The county shall pay the compensation from the county general fund or other available county funds in:

(1) monthly installments; or

(2) biweekly installments if authorized by the commissioners court.

(c) The compensation is in addition to the salary paid by this state and any other compensation authorized by law.

SECTION 2. Section 31.001, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 31.001. AUTHORITY FOR COUNTY PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION.

The commissioners courts in the counties of each of the 15 courts of appeals districts may pay additional compensation in an amount that

1 does not exceed the limitations of Section 659.012 to each of the
2 justices of the courts of appeals[~~, other than a justice of the~~
3 ~~Court of Appeals of the Fifteenth Court of Appeals District,~~]
4 residing within the court of appeals district that includes those
5 counties. The compensation is for all extrajudicial services
6 performed by the justices.

7 SECTION 3. Section 659.012(a), Government Code, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 (a) Notwithstanding Section 659.011 and subject to
10 Subsections (b) and (b-1):

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

22 (2) [~~except as provided by Subdivision (3),~~] a justice
23 of a court of appeals other than the chief justice is entitled to an
24 annual base salary from the state in the amount equal to 110 percent
25 of the state base salary of a district judge as set by the General
26 Appropriations Act, except that the combined base salary of a
27 justice of the court of appeals other than the chief justice from

1 all state and county sources, including compensation for any
2 extrajudicial services performed on behalf of the county, may not
3 exceed the amount that is \$13,000 more [~~\$5,000 less~~] than the base
4 salary for a justice of the supreme court as determined under this
5 subsection;

6 (3) [~~a justice of the Court of Appeals for the~~
7 ~~Fifteenth Court of Appeals District other than the chief justice is~~
8 ~~entitled to an annual base salary from the state in the amount equal~~
9 ~~to \$5,000 less than 120 percent of the state base salary of a~~
10 ~~district judge as set by the General Appropriations Act;~~

11 [~~(4)~~] a justice of the supreme court other than the
12 chief justice or a judge of the court of criminal appeals other than
13 the presiding judge is entitled to an annual base salary from the
14 state in the amount equal to 120 percent of the state base salary of
15 a district judge as set by the General Appropriations Act; and

16 (4) [~~(5)~~] the chief justice or presiding judge of an
17 appellate court is entitled to an annual base salary from the state
18 in the amount equal to \$2,500 more than the state base salary
19 provided for the other justices or judges of the court, except that
20 the combined base salary of the chief justice of a court of appeals
21 from all state and county sources may not exceed the amount equal to
22 \$15,500 more [~~\$2,500 less~~] than the base salary for a justice of the
23 supreme court as determined under this subsection.

24 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply
25 beginning with the state fiscal biennium beginning September 1,
26 2025.

27 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.