

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 15, 2025

TO: Honorable Joan Huffman, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB1574 by Zaffirini (Relating to a centers of excellence program developed by the Texas Judicial Council and a merit payment for certain justices and judges.), **As Introduced**

The fiscal implications of the bill cannot be determined due to the number of merit payments that would be provided to recognized judges and justices under the provisions of the bill being unknown.

The bill would amend Government Code to require the Texas Judicial Council to develop a centers of excellence program to identify judges and justices who excel in the performance of their duties. The bill would provide that a recognized judge or justice shall receive a one-time merit payment of 5.0% of the judge's annual base salary in the year the judge is recognized.

The cost to provide merit payments cannot be determined because the number of judges or justices that would be recognized under this bill and the base salary of the judges or justices recognized are unknown.

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: JMc, KK, DA, NTh