

STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION

of the

TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Judicial Compensation Commission Recommendations

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Council is the policymaking body for the Texas Judicial Branch, created under Chapter 71, Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Judicial Compensation Commission was created by the 80th Legislature to recommend the proper salaries to be paid by the state for all justices and judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the Courts of Appeals and the District Courts; and

WHEREAS, the Judicial Compensation Commission has studied judicial compensation in Texas and found a need for an increase in compensation; and

WHEREAS, while the 83rd Legislature provided an increase in judicial compensation, the Legislature did not fully fund the Commission-recommended increase and indicated a review would occur during the 84th Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the 84th Legislature did not address judicial compensation; and

WHEREAS, the salary of Texas' Supreme Court justices and Court of Criminal Appeals judges ranks 22nd in the nation when compared with the salary of other high court judges; and

WHEREAS, the salary of Texas' Courts of Appeals justices ranks 21st in the nation when compared with the salary of other appellate judges; and

WHEREAS, the salary of Texas' District Court judges ranks 24th in the nation when compared with the salary of other general-jurisdiction court judges; and

WHEREAS, absent an increase in judicial compensation, the salary of Texas' judges will again be below compensation levels from 1991 when one factors in the consumer price index increase; and

WHEREAS, the proper compensation of Texas' judges is essential to attract qualified candidates and retain experienced judges who effectively administer justice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Judicial Council urges the Legislature to adopt the recommendations of the Judicial Compensation Commission to:

- Increase judicial compensation of the justices and judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, Courts of Appeals, and District Judges by 10.2 percent;
- Enact legislation requiring the Commission's salary recommendations be listed in the introduced versions of the General Appropriations Acts filed in the House and Senate;
- Reduce the number of years required to receive judicial longevity pay from sixteen years of service to two years of service and to provide the judge or justice 0.2 percent of their current monthly state salary for every two years of judicial service; and
- Fund an increase in the salaries of the Children's Court Associate Judges at 90 percent of a district judge's salary.



Honorable Nathan L. Hecht
Chair, Texas Judicial Council

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