

SUBJECT: Allowing higher compensation for county auditors of certain counties

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — W. Smith, Naishtat, Coleman, Farabee, Harless, Heflin
0 nays
3 absent — Bolton, Leibowitz, T. Smith

WITNESSES: For — James Wells; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Cindy Brown; Lesa Crosswhite, County Treasurers Association of Texas; Mark Price; Ann Wilson)
Against — None

BACKGROUND: Local Government Code, ch. 152 sets forth the amount of compensation, expenses, and allowances of county officers and employees. Sec. 152.032(a) does not allow the amount of the compensation and allowances of a county auditor to exceed the amount of the compensation and allowances for the highest paid elected county officer, other than a statutory court judge, whose salary is set by the commissioners court. Sec. 152.032(d) states that in counties with more than 500,000 inhabitants, the commissioners court approves the salaries of the county auditor.

DIGEST: CSHB 3503 would amend sec. 152.032(d) to change the population threshold from 500,000 or more to 120,000 or more for a county in which a county auditor could be compensated at an amount that exceeded the amount set forth under sec. 152.032(a).

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2007.

SUPPORTERS SAY: CSHB 3503 would allow the commissioners courts of smaller counties to set salaries for county auditors. This would allow counties to pay higher salaries when necessary to attract and retain qualified accountants.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.