

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.J.R. 20  
By: Brown  
Finance  
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As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, Texas law does not authorize the legislature to create a judicial compensation committee. The 74th Legislature created the Commission on Judicial Efficiency and charged the commission with evaluating the judicial system in Texas and reporting back to the legislature with recommendations to improve the efficiency of the system. The report released by the commission included a recommendation to establish a Judicial Compensation Committee which would be responsible for making recommendations to the legislature regarding judicial salaries. The recommendations made by the commission would be binding unless rejected by either house of the legislature. S.J.R. authorizes the legislature to create a judicial compensation committee to make current law more comprehensive.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.J.R. 20 requires the submission to the voters of a constitutional amendment regarding the creation of a judicial compensation commission.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Article V, Texas Constitution, by adding Section 32, as follows:

Sec. 32. (a) Authorizes the legislature, by law, to create a judicial compensation commission to make recommendations for judicial salaries that become law if neither the Senate nor the House of Representatives, by majority vote, rejects the recommendations, notwithstanding any other provisions of this constitution.

(b) Provides that Subsection (a) of this section applies only to salaries for justices and judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the Courts of Appeal, and the District Courts.

SECTION 2. Requires this proposed constitutional amendment to be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 1997. Sets forth the required language for the ballot.