

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 1123  
By: Thompson (Cain)  
Intergovernmental Relations  
5/12/1999  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, a problem exists regarding the delay in creation of district courts in response to increasing caseloads. In response, counties have requested the creation of statutory county courts and increases in their jurisdictions, in an attempt to handle surplus caseloads of the district courts. H.B. 1123 increases the salaries for statutory county judges to exempt counties from paying a prescribed base salary, and sets forth state contributions to county salary funds.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 1123 increases the salaries for statutory county judges to exempt counties from paying a prescribed base salary, and sets forth state contributions to county salary funds.

### **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 Sections 25.0005(a) and (e), Government Code, to increase a statutory county court judge's salary by decreasing the amount by which the salary must be less than the total annual salary of a district judge in the county on August 31, 1999. Exempts a county from meeting certain salary requirements if it increases a statutory county court judge's salary to an amount that is at least \$28,000, rather than \$20,000, more than the salary the judge was entitled to at a certain time. Deletes text regarding judges' salaries and makes a conforming change.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 25.0015, Government Code, to increase the amount of fees and costs collected under Section 51.702, Government Code, from \$30,000, to \$35,000, which results in certain compensation to a county. Sets forth specific appropriation provisions for the payment of this amount of money.

SECTION 3. Effective date: October 1, 1999.  
Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.