

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2157  
By: Hartnett (Duncan)  
Jurisprudence  
5/9/2003  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

The 69th Texas Legislature created the Judicial and Court Personnel Training Fund (JCPTF) to provide funds for the continuing legal education of Texas judges. The 76th Texas Legislature added several other categories of persons eligible under the JCPTF, including full-time associate judges appointed pursuant to Chapter 201, Family Code, and full-time masters, magistrates, referees, and associate judges appointed pursuant to Chapter 54, Government Code. However, the 41 Title IV-D masters, who handle child support cases, and the 10 foster-care associate judges are excluded from the JCPTF program, despite their caseload, over 120,000 cases in FY 2002, and the sensitivity of their areas of specialty. H.B. 2157 provides that Title IV-D masters and foster-care associate judges are eligible for training under the JCPTF.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Sections 56.003(b) and (f), Government Code, as follows:

(b) Requires that no more than one-third of the funds appropriated for any fiscal year be used for the continuing legal education of judges of appellate courts, district courts, county courts at law, county courts performing judicial functions, full-time associate judges and masters appointed pursuant to Chapter 201, rather than Section 201.001, Family Code, and full-time masters, magistrates, referees, and associate judges appointed pursuant to Chapter 54 as required by the court of criminal appeals under Section 74.025 and of their court personnel.

(f) Requires the court of criminal appeals to grant legal funds to statewide professional associations of prosecuting attorneys, criminal defense attorneys who regularly represent indigent defendants in criminal matters, and justices of the peace, and other entities. Requires the association's or entity's purposes to include providing continuing legal education, technical assistance, and other support programs.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2003.