

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R7900 MXM-D

H.B. 554
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Intergovernmental Relations
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, some elected county or precinct officers who have a salary grievance wait until after their term of office is over, then file a lawsuit regarding the salary without having gone through a grievance process. H.B. 554 requires county or precinct officers who have a grievance about their salary or personal expenses to request a hearing before filing suit.

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 Subchapter B, Chapter 152, Local Government Code, by adding Section 152.0165, as follows:

Sec. 152.0165. EXHAUSTION OF REMEDIES BEFORE FILING SUIT REGARDING GRIEVANCE. (a) Prohibits an elected county or precinct officer from filing suit regarding the officer's salary or personal expenses unless a hearing has been requested and held under Section 152.016.

(b) Provides that this section does not affect a defense, immunity, or jurisdictional bar available to a county or a county official or employee that is sued by a county or precinct officer based on the officer's salary, office and travel expenses, or other allowances.

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2003.