

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE 5. MATTERS AFFECTING PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

SUBTITLE B. COUNTY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER 152. AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION, EXPENSES, AND ALLOWANCES OF COUNTY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 152.001. FUNDS FROM WHICH AMOUNTS ARE PAID. Unless otherwise provided by law, the compensation, expenses, and allowances set under this code for a district, county, or precinct officer or employee may be paid from the general fund of the county in which the officer or employee serves or from any other funds that are available for that purpose.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

Sec. 152.002. SALARY DONATION TO COUNTY. The county may accept from an elected county or precinct officer a gift or donation of all or part of the salary paid by the county to the officer. The county treasurer shall deposit a gift or donation accepted under this section in the general fund of the county.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 1259, Sec. 1, eff. June 18, 1989.

SUBCHAPTER B. AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION, EXPENSES, AND ALLOWANCES GENERALLY APPLICABLE

Sec. 152.011. AMOUNT SET BY COMMISSIONERS COURT. The commissioners court of a county shall set the amount of the compensation, office and travel expenses, and all other allowances for county and precinct officers and employees who are paid wholly from county funds.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

Sec. 152.012. MINIMUM AMOUNT OF SALARY. The commissioners court may not set the salary of an officer or employee at an amount less than the amount of the salary in effect on January 1, 1972. The court may not set

the salary of a justice of the peace at an amount less than the amount of the salary in effect on May 25, 1973.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

Sec. 152.013. PROCEDURE FOR SETTING AMOUNTS FOR ELECTED OFFICERS.

(a) Each year the commissioners court shall set the salary, expenses, and other allowances of elected county or precinct officers. The commissioners court shall set the items at a regular meeting of the court during the regular budget hearing and adoption proceedings.

(b) Before the 10th day before the date of the meeting, the commissioners court must publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the county a notice of:

(1) any salaries, expenses, or allowances that are proposed to be increased; and

(2) the amount of the proposed increases.

(c) Before filing the annual budget with the county clerk, the commissioners court shall give written notice to each elected county and precinct officer of the officer's salary and personal expenses to be included in the budget.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

Sec. 152.014. SALARY GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE. (a) In each county there is a salary grievance committee composed of the county judge and:

(1) the sheriff, county tax assessor-collector, county treasurer, county clerk, district clerk, county attorney or criminal district attorney, and the number of public members necessary to provide nine voting members; or

(2) nine public members, if the commissioners court votes to have nine public members.

(b) The county judge is chairman of the committee, but is not entitled to vote.

(c) Public members must be residents of the county.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 326, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 131, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 2004.

The following section was amended by the 87th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see H.B. 840, 87th Legislature,

Regular Session, for amendments affecting the following section.

Sec. 152.015. SELECTION AND TERM OF PUBLIC MEMBERS ON GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE. (a) The public members of the salary grievance committee shall be selected at a meeting of the court at any time during the year, but not later than the 15th day after the date a request for a hearing is received under Section 152.016(a). If a request for a public hearing is not received, the commissioners court is not required to select public members.

(b) Before the meeting, the county clerk shall place on a separate slip the name of each person who served on a grand jury in the county during the preceding calendar year. At the meeting the slips shall be folded, placed in an appropriate container, and mixed. The county judge shall draw at random a number of slips equal to the number of public members needed for the committee and shall announce the names on the slips. At the meeting the county judge may repeat this process and make a list of alternates. A person whose name is drawn becomes a member of the committee or an alternate on submitting written acceptance to the clerk. If a person refuses or is unable to serve on the committee, a replacement shall be appointed from the list of alternates. If the list of alternates is exhausted or does not exist, a replacement shall be selected at the next regular or called commissioners court meeting by random selection of a slip from the remaining slips. This process shall be repeated until the required number of public members is selected.

(c) A public member serves until the later of:

(1) the end of the fiscal year in which the public member is appointed; or

(2) the time the committee takes a final vote on the last of the grievances for which the committee held a public hearing.

(d) A vacancy in a public member position shall be filled for the unexpired part of the term by appointment from the list of alternates. If the list of alternates is exhausted or does not exist, a replacement shall be filled by random selection of a slip from the remaining slips at a meeting of the commissioners court.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 326, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 131, Sec. 2, eff. Jan. 1, 2004; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1021, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Sec. 152.016. FUNCTIONS OF GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO ELECTED OFFICERS. (a) An elected county or precinct officer who is aggrieved by

the setting of the officer's salary or personal expenses may request a hearing before the salary grievance committee before the approval of the county's annual budget. The request must:

- (1) be in writing;
- (2) be delivered to the committee chairman within five days after the date the officer receives notice of the salary or personal expenses; and
- (3) state the desired change in salary or personal expenses.

(b) The committee shall hold a public hearing not later than the later of the 10th day after:

- (1) the date the request is received; or
- (2) the date the commissioners court selects the public members

of the committee.

(b-1) The chairman shall announce the time and place of the hearing.

(c) If, after the hearing, six or more of the members vote to recommend an increase in the officer's salary or personal expenses, the committee shall submit its recommendation to the commissioners court in writing. If six to eight members vote to recommend the increase, the commissioners court shall consider the recommendation at its next meeting. If nine members vote to recommend the increase and sign the recommendation, the commissioners court shall include the increase in the budget before the budget is filed and the increase takes effect in the next budget year.

(d) The committee's authority is limited to the consideration of increases in the salaries or personal expenses of county and precinct officers. The committee may not set policy of the county or add new items to a proposed county budget.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 326, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 131, Sec. 3, eff. Jan. 1, 2004.

Sec. 152.0165. EXHAUSTION OF REMEDIES BEFORE FILING SUIT REGARDING GRIEVANCE. (a) An elected county or precinct officer may not file suit regarding the officer's salary or personal expenses unless a hearing has been requested and held under Section 152.016.

(b) 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.

Added by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 439, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Sec. 152.017. EXCEPTIONS. This subchapter does not apply to:

- (1) a judge of a court of record;
- (2) a presiding judge of a commissioners court in a county with a population of 3.3 million or more;
- (3) a district attorney paid wholly by state funds or the district attorney's assistants, investigators, or other employees;
- (4) a county auditor, county purchasing agent, or the auditor's or purchasing agent's assistants or other employees; or
- (5) a person employed under Section 76.004, Government Code.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987. Amended by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 597, Sec. 89, eff. Sept. 1, 1991.

Amended by:

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1163 (H.B. 2702), Sec. 70, eff. September 1, 2011.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 770 (H.B. 2299), Sec. 2.76, eff. January 1, 2017.

Sec. 152.018. FORMER PROCEDURES NOT AFFECTED. This subchapter does not affect a lawful procedure or delegation of authority established before January 1, 1972, for setting the salary of a county or precinct employee.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

SUBCHAPTER C. AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES OF COUNTY AUDITOR AND ASSISTANTS

Sec. 152.031. COUNTY AUDITOR'S SALARY. (a) At a hearing held in accordance with Section 152.905, the district judges appointing the county auditor shall set, by a majority vote, the auditor's annual salary as compensation for services and the auditor's travel expenses and other allowances. The action of the district judges must be taken by order and must be recorded as prescribed by Section 152.905 and in the minutes of the district court.

(b) The district clerk shall certify the order to the commissioners court of the county for its observance. The commissioners court shall cause the order to be recorded in its minutes.

(c) The salary shall be paid to the county auditor by monthly payments or by any other distribution at the option of the county.