

**SUBJECT:** Appropriations for miscellaneous claims and judgments

**COMMITTEE:** Appropriations — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 25 ayes — Junell, Delisi, Averitt, Coleman, Cuellar, Davis, Finnell, Gallego, Glaze, Greenberg, Haggerty, Heflin, Hernandez, Hochberg, Kubiak, Moreno, Mowery, Pitts, Price, Raymond, Swinford, Tillery, S. Turner, Walker, West

0 nays

2 absent — Eiland, Hinojosa

**WITNESSES:** For — None

Against — None

On — Carl Reynolds, Texas Board of Criminal Justice

**BACKGROUND :** Since the late 1970s, every appropriations act has contained a rider prohibiting the use of general revenue funds to pay any judgment or settlement unless the funds are specifically appropriated for such use. For fiscal 1996-1997 this provision is located in Art. 9, General Provisions, sec. 56, HB 1 by Junell, 74th Legislature.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 2778 would appropriate almost \$7 million out of general revenue funds and five special funds to pay various claims and judgments against the state.

Payments would range from \$2.00 (to Doris P. Smith, for a warrant voided by statute of limitations) to \$1.7 million (to David Snyder for settlement of *David Snyder and Eldon Davidson v. Texas State Technical College System*) Other large payments include \$494,692.53 to GTE Southwest Incorporated for a voided warrant.

The bill would take effect September 1, 1997. Claims or judgments would have to verified by the administrator of the special fund or account and

HB 2778  
House Research Organization  
page 2

approved by the attorney general and the comptroller by August 31, 1998 in order to be paid.

NOTES: The original version of the bill included judgments and claims totaling \$37,096 to be paid by state general revenue.