

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
81R4414 CAE-D

S.B. 1152
By: Hinojosa
State Affairs
3/31/2009
As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

S.B. 1, 72nd Legislature, Regular Session, 1991, made the act of offering or accepting a political contribution in the Texas Capitol illegal. Under current law, political contributions can be legally offered to sitting judges in Texas courthouses. The possibility that a sitting judge can accept a contribution in a courthouse reflects poorly on the integrity of the Texas judicial process.

As proposed, S.B. 1152 prohibits a political contribution from being offered or accepted in Texas courthouses.

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 Section 253.039, Election Code, by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (c), and adding Subsection (h), as follows:

- (a) Prohibits a person from knowingly making or authorizing a political contribution while in a courthouse to certain individuals.
- (b) Makes a conforming change.
- (c) Makes a conforming change.
- (h) Defines "courthouse."

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2009.