

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
85R19889 PAM-D

C.S.S.B. 1434  
By: Zaffirini  
Intergovernmental Relations  
4/6/2017  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

In each Texas county that has a county auditor, the auditor is appointed and overseen by the district judge or judges with jurisdiction in the county. These judges (or judge) also are responsible for setting the salary of the auditor and the assistant auditors. Some counties, including Webb County, have adopted official wage and position classification plans to establish a range of acceptable salaries for county employees. These plans promote consistency, prevent internal conflicts among employees regarding salaries, and aid in the budgeting process. Because their salaries are set by district judges, however, county auditors and assistant auditors are not subject to these county-adopted plans. This can create an undesirable situation where the salaries of almost all county employees adhere to the county's adopted pay scale, except those of a select few whose salaries are set by the district judges. This can cause problems during the budgeting process and raise issues of consistency and fairness.

C.S.S.B. 1434 is a local bill that, for Webb County, maintains district judges' responsibility to set the compensation of county auditors and assistant county auditors, but requires that the compensation be consistent with the county's adopted wage and classification pay plan.

C.S.S.B. 1434 amends current law relating to compensation of county auditors and assistant auditors in certain counties.

### **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 152.905, Local Government Code, by adding Subsection (e), as follows:

(e) Provides that this subsection applies only to a county auditor or assistant auditor appointed to serve a county located on an international border that has a population of less than 300,000 and contains one or more municipalities with a population of 200,000 or more. Prohibits the district judge or judges, in setting the compensation for a county auditor or assistant auditor considered at a hearing under this section (Procedures for Setting Compensation by District Judges), from setting the amount of compensation in an amount that is inconsistent with a wage and position classification plan adopted by the county.

SECTION 2. Requires the district judge or judges, in subsequent hearings setting the person's annual compensation, without reducing the person's annual compensation, to align the person's compensation with the wage and position classification plan adopted by the county for a county auditor or assistant auditor appointed before the effective date of this Act whose compensation does not conform to the person's position classification as provided by a wage and position classification plan adopted by the county that the person serves.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2017.