

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 131  
By: Madden (Ellis)  
State Affairs  
5-16-97  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

The 74th Legislature enacted legislation which instituted a method of regulating contributions, expenditures, and advertising in connection with certain judicial candidates and officeholders. Guidelines were established for the filing of personal financial statements by certain judicial officeholders, with attendant civil and criminal penalties provided for noncompliance. This bill sets forth provisions regarding political contributions made in connection with certain judicial offices.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 131 sets forth provisions regarding political contributions made in connection with certain judicial offices.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 253F, Election Code, by adding Section 253.1541, as follows:

Sec. 253.1541. ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICEHOLDER CONTRIBUTIONS BY PERSON APPOINTED TO FILL VACANCY. Provides that this section applies only to a person appointed to fill a vacancy in an office covered by this subchapter who, at the time of appointment, does not hold another office covered by this subchapter. Authorizes a person covered under this section to accept officeholder contributions beginning on the date the person assumes the duties of office and ending on the 60th day after that date.

SECTION 2. Amends Sections 253.157(a)-(c), Election Code, to prohibit a specific purpose-committee for supporting or opposing a judicial candidate from accepting certain political contributions. Makes conforming and nonsubstantive changes.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1997.  
Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.