

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R874 ESH-D

S.B. 720
By: West, Royce
Jurisprudence
3/15/2001
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, judicial candidates and officeholders are prohibited from using political contributions to make political contributions to other candidates or officeholders. As proposed, S.B. 720 amends the prohibition to prohibit the candidate from knowingly making that contribution. It also limits the amount of money that may be given to political parties, allowing only contributions that are made in return for goods and services or contributions that are not more than the candidate's pro rata share of the committee's normal overhead and administrative or operating costs.

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 253.1611, Election Code, as follows:

- (a)-(c) Prohibit a judicial candidate or officeholder or a specific-purpose committee for supporting or opposing a judicial candidate or assisting a judicial officeholder from using a political contribution to knowingly make certain political contributions.
- (d) Prohibits a judicial officeholder or a specific-purpose committee for assisting a judicial officeholder from, in any calendar year in which the office held is not on the ballot, using a political contribution to knowingly make a political contribution to a political committee that, when aggregated with each other political contribution to a political committee in that calendar year, exceeds \$250.
- (e) Provides that this section does not apply to certain contributions.
- (f) Provides a formula to compute the candidate's or officeholder's share of costs related to the exceptions under Subsection (e).
- (g) Relettered from existing Subsection (f).

Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 2. Makes application of this act prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2001.