

STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION

of the

TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Joint Criminal Justice Committee, Civil Justice Committee, and Public Trust and Confidence Committee Supporting Court Personnel Recommendation

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Council is the policymaking body for the Texas Judicial Branch, created under Chapter 71, Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Council is charged with improving the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Committee, the Civil Justice Committee, and the Public Trust and Confidence Committee were jointly charged with monitoring the legislatively mandated study being conducted by the Office of Court Administration of the court personnel workload of the district and statutory county courts and making recommendations regarding any increased need for additional court staff; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1 of the 88th Legislature Regular Session included in the Office of Court Administration's appropriation a Rider mandating a study of court personnel across the state; and

WHEREAS, the study aims to determine appropriate staffing needs for the state's courts and court clerk's offices and to develop a formula that can be used by courts and court clerk's offices to determine the staff resources needed to provide effective and efficient support for court operations in a given jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the primary beneficiaries of the study include district courts, statutory county courts, statutory probate courts, specialty children's courts, and court clerk's offices; and

WHEREAS, preliminary study findings suggest that court personnel resources are not consistent throughout state; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 22 of the 88th Legislative Session created grant assistance programs for rural sheriff's offices, constable's offices, and prosecutor's offices to ensure

professional law enforcement and prosecutorial services throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, a similar grant program for court personnel would both complement these programs and ensure that courts across Texas are operating effectively and efficiently;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Judicial Council recommends that the Legislature establish a grant fund to enhance court efficiency similar to the grant program established by the 88th Legislature in Senate Bill 22 to provide financial assistance to rural law enforcement and prosecutors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan L. Hecht", written over a horizontal line.

Honorable Nathan L. Hecht
Chair, Texas Judicial Council