A Joint Resolution disapproving certain action by the Board on Judicial Compensation; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the Board on Judicial Compensation convening on September 20, 2011, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.3 of Title 20 of the Oklahoma Statutes issued a final report increasing judicial salaries; and

WHEREAS, salary increases were approved for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, the Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, Judges of the Court of Criminal Appeals, the Presiding Judge of the Court of Civil Appeals, Judges of the Court of Civil Appeals, District Court Judges, Associate District Court Judges, and Special Judges; and
WHEREAS, the Final Report of the Board stated that the salaries increases were “a six percent (6%) cost of living increase due to inflation from July 1, 2008, to date”; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature, as the branch of state government designated to enact a budget and appropriate funds for the operation of state government, must ensure that all expenditures of state funds are made in a manner that is fiscally prudent; and

WHEREAS, the action of the Board does not reflect the will of the Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 53RD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to the authority of the Legislature, as provided in Section 3.2 of Title 20 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the Final Report of the Board on Judicial Compensation, issued on September 20, 2011, establishing a six-percent cost-of-living pay increase for judges is hereby disapproved.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this resolution shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RULES, dated 4-4-12 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.