



SENATOR KEL SELIGER

CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 12068  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711  
(512) 463-0131  
FAX: (512) 475-3733  
DIAL 711 FOR RELAY CALLS

*The Senate of  
The State of Texas*

DISTRICT 31

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
P.O. Box 9155  
AMARILLO, TEXAS 79105  
(806) 374-8994  
FAX: (806) 374-4607

6 DESTA DRIVE  
SUITE 3360  
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79705  
(432) 620-0436  
FAX: (432) 686-7748

4840 E. UNIVERSITY  
SUITE 205  
ODESSA, TEXAS 79762  
(432) 550-7476  
FAX: (432) 367-0034

401 AUSTIN  
SUITE 101  
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720  
(432) 268-9909  
FAX: (432) 268-9899

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Hope Osborn, (512) 463-0131

**Seliger Files Legislation to Delink Elected Official Pensions from Judge Pay**

AUSTIN, Texas-- Today, State Senator Kel Seliger (R- Amarillo) filed Senate Bill 223, to delink the elected class retirement annuity calculation from the salary of district judges.

Since 1991, the salary used to calculate the service retirement annuity for elected officials, such as state senators, has been tied to the salary of state district judges. This impedes any objective assessment on adequate compensation for district judges and gives the appearance of a conflict of interest. SB 223 will freeze the elected class annuity calculation at the salary a district judge is being paid on August 31, 2019.

"For several sessions I have been working to delink district judge salaries from the elected class annuity calculation. This link is an obstacle towards attracting and retaining the most qualified judges. It also creates a conflict of interest for legislators who want to increase judicial pay but not their own retirement annuity," said Seliger.

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