



STATE REPRESENTATIVE ERIC JOHNSON FILES LEGISLATION TO END BENEFITS
FOR STATE OFFICIALS FOUND GUILTY OF OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT

For Immediate Release

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DALLAS, TX - State Representative Eric Johnson has filed House Bill 246, which will force state officials who commit felonies connected to their official duties to forfeit their public pension benefits.

"My fellow members of the Texas Legislature and I are entrusted with the great responsibility of serving the people of Texas and not ourselves," said Representative Johnson. "I am confident that my fellow legislators will join me in declaring that when an elected state official abuses the public trust, he or she should not be able to retire on the public's dime."

No Texas law currently prevents non-judicial elected state officials convicted of a felony from receiving pension benefits as a member of the elected class of the Employees Retirement System of Texas. In contrast, Texas judges who are removed from office because of official misconduct cannot receive a retirement annuity under the Judicial Retirement System of Texas Plans One and Two.

Representative Johnson's bill would apply to members of the Texas Legislature and elected officials in the executive branch of state government. Upon conviction for certain felonies arising directly from the official duties of elective office, payments to such elected officials would be suspended immediately. Representative Johnson's bill would only apply to felonies committed by such elected officials after the bill's provisions have become effective.

The full text of Representative Johnson's ethics reform bill is available at
<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=82R&Bill=HB246>

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