

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Joint Resolution 7 (The Speaker)  
(Judicial Compensation Commission)  
Appropriations Referred to Budget and Taxation and Judicial Proceedings

**Judicial Compensation Commission Report**

This amended joint resolution sets judicial salaries. Salaries recommended by the Judicial Compensation Commission take effect automatically on July 1, 1996, unless the recommendation is reduced by both houses of the General Assembly by March 14, 1996.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures will increase by approximately \$823,200 annually beginning in FY 1997 and by \$1.1 million annually. Future year expenditures would depend on any general State salary increases and future recommendations of the Judicial Compensation Commission. Revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** Expenditures in eight counties will increase by a minimal amount. Revenues are not affected. **This joint resolution places a mandate on units of local government.**

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Expenditures:** By law the salary recommendations of the Judicial Compensation Commission take effect on July 1, 1996, unless reduced by the General Assembly. If this resolution does not pass both houses of the General Assembly by March 14, general fund expenditures will increase by \$3.4 million annually per the Judicial Compensation Commission recommendation.

This joint resolution provides salary increases of approximately 3.1% which would increase general fund expenditures by \$820,812 over fiscal 1996 expenditures. This estimate reflects the October 1, 1996 effective date and includes salary increases of \$532,200 and fringe benefit increases of \$288,612. Exhibit 1 shows the salary increases proposed for various judgeships. If House Bill 90 or Senate Bill 90 is enacted, expenditures would increase by an

additional \$206,360 in fiscal 1997 and \$275,246 annually for two new District Court judgeships.

**Exhibit 1**

<u>Judgeship</u>	<u># of Judg</u>	<u>Proposed Salary</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Total Increase</u>
<b>Court of Appeals</b>					
Chief	1	124,500	3,600	3.0%	3,600
Associate	6	107,300	3,200	3.1%	19,200
<b>Court of Special Appeals</b>					
Chief	1	103,000	3,100	3.1%	3,100
Associate	12	100,300	3,000	3.1%	36,000
<b>Circuit Courts</b>					
Judge	132	96,500	2,900	3.1%	382,800
<b>District Court</b>					
Chief	1	100,300	3,000	3.1%	3,000
Associate	97	89,200	2,700	3.1%	<u>261,900</u>
<b>Subtotal: Salary increase</b>					709,600
Fringe benefits (54.23% of salary)					<u>384,816</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$1,094,416</b>
Fiscal 1997 Increase					<u>\$820,812</u>

The State Prosecutor receives a salary not less than a circuit court judge. As a result of increasing the salary of circuit court judges, general fund expenditures would increase by an additional \$2,900 in salary and \$296 in fringe benefits annually. The fiscal 1997 effect would total \$2,397.

**Local Expenditures:** Salaries of State's Attorneys in eight counties are tied to the salaries of District Court judges. Those counties and the relationships to the District Court Judges' salaries are shown below.

<u>County</u>	<u>Percent of District Court Judge salary</u>	<u>Additional Salary</u>
Allegany	80%	2,160
Calvert	90%	2,430
Cecil	95%	2,565
Dorchester	75%	2,025
Howard	100%	2,700
St. Mary's	90%	2,430
Washington	80%	2,160
Wicomico	90%	2,430

Any increase in fringe benefits would depend on the cost of fringe benefits provided to the State's Attorney by a county. This increase will have a negligible impact on the counties' property tax rates.

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**Information Source(s):** Judicial Compensation Commission, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 5, 1996  
 ncs Revised - Updated Information - February 12, 1996  
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Analysis by: Robert C. Bates	Direct Inquiries to:
Reviewed by: John Rixey	John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
	(410) 841-3710
	(301) 858-3710