

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Joint Resolution 5 (The Speaker)
(Judicial Compensation Commission)

Appropriations

Judicial Compensation Commission Report

This amended joint resolution sets judicial salaries by leaving those salaries at their current levels. The resolution also specifically endorses § 1-703(b) of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article that requires that judicial salaries automatically receive the same general salary increase as may be provided to State employees, effective on the same date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. This amended joint resolution maintains the status quo for all judicial salaries. Other State salaries tied to judicial salaries will remain unchanged. It is noted that all such salaries, including those for judges, would be subject to receive the same 4% general salary increase, beginning November 15, 2000, as is currently proposed for State employees in the Governor's proposed budget for FY 2001.

Local Effect: None. All local salaries tied to judicial salaries will remain unchanged, subject to the same general salary increase provision cited above.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Current judicial salaries as per increases provided by resolution in 1998 and subsequent cost-of-living adjustments are as follows:

Court of Appeals	
Chief Judge	\$139,200
Judge	\$121,600
Court of Special Appeals	
Chief Judge	\$117,200
Judge	\$114,400
Circuit Court	\$110,500
District Court	
Chief Judge	\$114,400
Judge	\$103,000

Background: In 1980 the General Assembly created the Judicial Compensation Commission. The General Assembly may amend a joint resolution from the commission to decrease, but not increase, any of the commission salary recommendations. The General Assembly may not reduce the salary of a judge below current levels. Failure to adopt or amend the joint resolution within 50 calendar days after its introduction results in adoption of the salaries recommended by the commission. If the General Assembly rejects any of the commission's recommendations, the salaries of the judges remain unchanged, unless modified under other provisions of law.

Judges also receive any general State employee salary increases (also referred to as cost-of-living adjustments). A full report on the history and activities of the commission may be found in the *Report of the Judicial Compensation Commission, January 2000* distributed to all members of the General Assembly.

Additional Comments: SB 69, if enacted, would create six additional circuit court judgments as well as one additional District Court judgment.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Resolutions to alter compensation for the Judiciary are introduced in a year in which there is a recommendation from the Judicial Compensation Commission. The last such recommendation was during the 1998 session introduced as SJ 2 and HJ 2. The resolution took effect, and judicial salaries were increased by \$11,275 across the board, effective July 1, 1998.

Cross File: SJ 3 (The President) (Judicial Compensation Commission) - Budget and

Taxation and Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 3, 2000
cm/jr Revised - House Third Reader - February 28, 2000
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