



<u>Position</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>
<u>Circuit Court</u> Judge	\$119,600
<u>District Court</u> Chief Judge	\$123,800
Associate Judge	\$111,500

**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 a judge's salary below its current level. 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 judges' salaries remain unchanged, unless modified by 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 2002* distributed to all members of the General Assembly.

**State Expenditures:** By law, if this resolution passes the General Assembly without amendments to the recommendations of the Judicial Compensation Commission, or does not pass both houses by March 7, 2002, the salary increases recommended by the commission take effect. As amended, the resolution maintains judicial salaries at their current levels, resulting in no additional costs to the State.

The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal 2003 includes a 2% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for State employees effective January 1, 2003. Since judges receive any COLA that is awarded to State employees, the judges will receive this increase.

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### **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 2000 session and introduced as SJ 5/HJ 5. The resolution was rejected. In the 1998 session, SJ 2/HJ 2 took effect after the General Assembly failed to act within the 50-day time frame. As a result, judicial salaries increased by \$11,275 across the board beginning in fiscal 1999.

**Cross File:** HJ 5 (The Speaker) (Judicial Compensation Commission) – Appropriations.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), State's Attorney's Office, Workers' Compensation Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 29, 2002  
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