

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301
(503) 986-1828

Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer
Paul Siebert, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer
John Terpening, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer



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To: Public Safety Subcommittee
From: John Borden, Legislative Fiscal Office
Date: June 12, 2025
Subject: HB 2712 – Relating to the Judicial Department
Work Session Recommendations

The measure includes changes to judicial compensation and accountability. The measure, as amended, provides two increases to the statutory annual salaries of judgeships in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Tax Courts, and circuit courts. Judicial salaries, based on current salary amounts, will increase by ten percent beginning July 1, 2025 (2025-27 biennium). A second increase of ten percent is scheduled to begin on July 1, 2027 (2027-29 biennium). The annual salary amounts, by judgeship, are summarized in the following table:

HB 2712-A5 Amendment*	Number of Statutorily Authorized Judgeships (May 2025)	Annual Statutory Salary	Current Annual Salary (July 2025)**	Annual Salary Effective July 1, 2025	Annual Salary Effective July 1, 2027***
Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court	1	\$ 157,076	\$ 204,348	\$ 224,784	\$ 247,260
Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court	6	\$ 154,040	\$ 200,544	\$ 220,596	\$ 242,652
Chief Judge of the Oregon Court of Appeals	1	\$ 154,040	\$ 200,544	\$ 220,596	\$ 242,652
Justice of the Court of Appeals	12	\$ 150,980	\$ 196,668	\$ 216,336	\$ 237,972
Oregon Tax Court Judge	1	\$ 151,048	\$ 190,488	\$ 209,532	\$ 230,484
Circuit Court Judge	182	\$ 147,136	\$ 185,508	\$ 204,060	\$ 224,472

*Salary amounts exclude Other Payroll Expenses (Public Employees Retirement, Social Security Tax, Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance, and Mass Transit tax)

**State judges receive an increase based upon any cost-of-living allowance (COLA) adopted for management service employees in the Executive Branch (ORS 292.428). The judicial salary amounts shown for the 2027-29 biennium exclude any management service COLA granted during the 2025-27 biennium.

***Does not reflect 2025-27 management service COLA adjustments, which are to-be-determined, as of the date of this recommendation.

The budgetary impact of the change in judicial salaries includes an associated increase to Other Payroll Expenses (Public Employees Retirement, Social Security Tax, Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance, and Mass Transit tax).

In addition, the measure allows the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to exercise the existing authority to promote judicial accountability and fair and accessible justice services. This includes the ability to establish judicial education requirements, establish an ombudsman's office within the office of the State Court Administrator to receive and respond to comments and concerns regarding court experiences and determine the confidentiality of information obtained or generated by the ombudsman's office, and set rules and standards governing concerns raised regarding judicial performance. Apart from this measure, and the measure's budgetary impact, the office of the State Court Administrator is reorganizing existing judicial and staff training and education resources in further support of the measure.

The -A5 amendment to the measure modifies the annual salary of statutory judgeships on July 1, 2025, and then again on July 1, 2027 after allowing for any management service cost-of-living allowance(s) granted under ORS 292.428; appropriates \$11.3 million General Fund for the 2025-27 biennium cost of the incremental increase to judicial compensation, including Other Payroll Expenses; and separately appropriates \$1.9 million General Fund for section 5 related the establishment of an ombudsman's office. The budget report will include authorization to establish six permanent full-time positions (5.13 FTE) for the ombudsman's office. The measure has an emergency clause and is effective on passage.

Amendment

LFO recommends adoption of the –A5 amendment.

MOTION: I move adoption of the –A5 amendment to HB 2712. *(vote)*

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that HB 2712, as amended by the –A5 amendment, be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move HB 2712, as amended, to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. *(vote)*

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: