



Legislative Fiscal Office
 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
 2025 Regular Session

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 Date: March 3, 2025

Bill Title: Relating to compensation of judges; declaring an emergency.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Judicial Department

Summary of Fiscal Impact

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Oregon Judicial Department	\$ 33,303,851	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,303,851	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 33,303,851	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,303,851	-	-

2027-29 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
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Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 33,303,851	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,303,851	-	-

Measure Description

The measure increases the annual salary of statutory judgeships in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Tax Courts, and circuit courts. The measure modifies judicial salaries, which are set by statute, beginning July 1, 2025. The total change is reflected below:

- The annual salary of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals increases from \$154,040 to \$259,500.
- The annual salary of a judge of the Court of Appeals increases from \$150,980 to \$254,484.
- The annual salary of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court increases from \$157,076 to \$264,432.
- The annual salary of a judge of the Supreme Court increases from \$154,040 to \$259,500.
- The annual salary of a judge of the circuit court increases from \$142,136 to \$240,048.
- The annual salary of a judge of the Oregon Tax Court increases from \$146,048 to \$246,492.

While the base statutory amounts are increased by the measure, the current salary amounts, including the most recent cost of living adjustment, are as follows:

- The annual salary of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is \$200,544.
- The annual salary of a judge of the Court of Appeals is \$196,668.
- The annual salary of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is \$204,348.
- The annual salary of a judge of the Supreme Court is \$200,544
- The annual salary of a judge of the circuit court is \$185,508.
- The annual salary of a judge of the Oregon Tax Court is \$190,488.

Fiscal Analysis

The fiscal impact is estimated to be \$33.3 million General Fund in the 2025-27 and 2027-29 biennium for the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). The fiscal impact includes the associated increases to Other Payroll Expenses

(Public Employees Retirement System, Social Security Tax, Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance, and Mass Transit tax). The fiscal impact of this measure would increase with the establishment of new statutory judgeships (e.g., SB 95, 2025).

Under current law, there are 182 circuit court judges, 13 Court of Appeals judges, seven Supreme Court Judges, and one Tax Court judge for a total of 203 statutory judgeships that would receive increases in salary under this measure. While Oregon judges receive cost-of-living adjustments under statute, the statutory salary limits have not been changed since 2019. The measure does not apply to the costs related to non-statutorily established judgeships (such as temporary or pro-tem judges, 50 senior or “Plan B” retired judges, and judicial referees), which are funded separately in OJD’s budget.

The 2025-27 Chief Justice recommended budget contains Policy Option Package 102 which is a placeholder for a judicial salary increase to assist with retention and recruitment of judges.

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that while the measure is declaring an emergency and is effective upon passage, the salary increases do not go into effect until the beginning of the July 1, 2025, biennium.

Relevant Dates

The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.