

## HB 2712 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Judiciary

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**Action Date:** 04/07/25

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.  
(Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 8-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 8 - Andersen, Chaichi, Chotzen, Kropf, Lewis, Mannix, Tran, Wallan

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/31, 4/7

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure amends the salaries for judges in Oregon effective July 1, 2026. It also authorizes the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to take actions and establish rules that promote judicial accountability and fair and accessible justice services.

#### Detailed Summary

Authorizes the Chief Justice to take actions and establish rules that promote judicial accountability and fair and accessible justice services, including

- the ability to establish education requirements,
- the ability to establish an ombudsman's office within the office of the State Court Administrator to receive and respond to comments and concerns,
- authorization to enact rules and standards governing the resolution of concerns regarding judicial performance
- the ability to make individualized action plans applicable to judges, and
- the ability to adopt rules regarding the availability or confidentiality of information used or created by the ombudsman's office.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Judicial pay historically and currently
- Roles and duties of judges around Oregon
- Increased caseloads in Oregon courts
- Judicial oversight
- Provisions of measure

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Judicial Branch is a unified system of state trial courts (circuit courts), appellate courts (Oregon Supreme Court and Oregon Court of Appeals), and the Tax Court, known together as the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). The role of the state courts is to ensure that all Oregonians receive fair and accessible justice by providing due process, protecting individual rights, and preserving community welfare.

All OJD judges are elected to six-year terms in non-partisan elections. The Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court is the administrative head of OJD. The Chief Justice supervises the entire state court system; issues orders

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and adopts rules to ensure the effective administration of OJD; adopts procedural rules for the state courts; supervises the statewide fiscal plan and budget for all Oregon state courts; and appoints the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the presiding judges of the circuit courts, the presiding judge of the Tax Court, and the State Court Administrator. Oregon judicial salaries are established by ORS 292.406, 292.411, 292.416 and 292.426.