

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2712

Ordered by the House April 11
Including House Amendments dated April 11

Sponsored by Representative EVANS (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act gives judges more pay. The Act says that the Chief Justice can take actions and make rules to promote accountability of judges and make justice services fair and accessible. (Flesch Readability Score: 65.5).

[Digest: The Act says that OJD can do audits of circuit courts. The Act tells OJD to look at the role of supervised visitation specialists and make a report. (Flesch Readability Score: 77.8).]

[Provides that the Judicial Department may implement an audit schedule for the circuit courts.]

[Requires the department to study the role of supervised visitation specialists used for custody casework. Directs the department to submit findings to the committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the judiciary not later than March 1, 2026.]

[Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.]

Increases the salaries of state court judges.

Provides that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has authority to take actions and establish rules that promote judicial accountability and fair and accessible justice services.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the Judicial Department; creating new provisions; amending ORS 292.406, 292.411,
3 292.416 and 292.426; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 292.406 is amended to read:

6 292.406. (1)(a) The annual salary of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals shall be \$154,040 for
7 the period beginning on January 1, 2019, and ending on June 30, 2020.

8 (b) On July 1, 2020, the annual salary of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, as adjusted
9 under ORS 292.428, shall be increased by \$5,000.

10 **(c) On July 1, 2026, the annual salary of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals shall be**
11 **\$259,500.**

12 (2)(a) The annual salary of each other judge of the Court of Appeals shall be \$150,980 for the
13 period beginning on January 1, 2019, and ending on June 30, 2020.

14 (b) On July 1, 2020, the annual salary of each other judge of the Court of Appeals, as adjusted
15 under ORS 292.428, shall be increased by \$5,000.

16 **(c) On July 1, 2026, the annual salary of each other judge of the Court of Appeals shall**
17 **be \$254,484.**

18 **SECTION 2.** ORS 292.411 is amended to read:

19 292.411. (1)(a) The annual salary of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall be \$157,076 for
20 the period beginning on January 1, 2019, and ending on June 30, 2020.

21 (b) On July 1, 2020, the annual salary of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, as adjusted

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 under ORS 292.428, shall be increased by \$5,000.

2 **(c) On July 1, 2026, the annual salary of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall be**
3 **\$264,432.**

4 (2)(a) The annual salary of each other judge of the Supreme Court shall be \$154,040 for the pe-
5 riod beginning on January 1, 2019, and ending on June 30, 2020.

6 (b) On July 1, 2020, the annual salary of each other judge of the Supreme Court, as adjusted
7 under ORS 292.428, shall be increased by \$5,000.

8 **(c) On July 1, 2026, the annual salary of each other judge of the Supreme Court shall be**
9 **\$259,500.**

10 **SECTION 3.** ORS 292.416 is amended to read:

11 292.416. (1) The annual salary of each judge of a circuit court shall be \$142,136 for the period
12 beginning on January 1, 2019, and ending on June 30, 2020.

13 (2) On July 1, 2020, the annual salary of each judge of a circuit court, as adjusted under ORS
14 292.428, shall be increased by \$5,000.

15 **(3) On July 1, 2026, the annual salary of each judge of a circuit court shall be \$240,048.**

16 **SECTION 4.** ORS 292.426 is amended to read:

17 292.426. (1) The annual salary of the judge of the Oregon Tax Court shall be \$146,048 for the
18 period beginning on January 1, 2019, and ending on June 30, 2020.

19 (2) On July 1, 2020, the annual salary of the judge of the Oregon Tax Court, as adjusted under
20 ORS 292.428, shall be increased by \$5,000.

21 **(3) On July 1, 2026, the annual salary of the judge of the Oregon Tax Court shall be**
22 **\$246,492.**

23 **SECTION 5. (1) In the exercise of administrative authority and supervision over the**
24 **courts of this state, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has the authority to take actions**
25 **and establish rules that promote judicial accountability and fair and accessible justice ser-**
26 **vices, consistent with the mission of the state courts, including the ability to establish:**

27 **(a) Judicial education requirements to strengthen the skills, resilience and performance**
28 **of the members of the Judicial Conference of the State of Oregon;**

29 **(b) An ombudsman's office within the office of the State Court Administrator to receive**
30 **and respond to comments and concerns regarding court experiences;**

31 **(c) Rules and standards governing the resolution of concerns regarding judicial perform-**
32 **ance;**

33 **(d) Individualized action plans applicable to judges, including mandatory plans of educa-**
34 **tion, coaching or mentoring; and**

35 **(e) Rules regarding the availability or confidentiality of information obtained or gener-**
36 **ated by the ombudsman's office.**

37 **(2) Nothing in this section prevents the Chief Justice or any other individual from re-**
38 **ferring a matter to the Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability.**

39 **SECTION 6. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
40 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**
41 **on its passage.**