

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Beyer, Edwards C., Girod, Thatcher, Riley
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs the State Court Administrator to prepare a report on a biennial basis regarding the compensation of state judges. Stipulates that the report is to include the average compensation paid in other states to judges with equivalent responsibilities and the funding amount needed to increase compensation of judges to equal the average compensation.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Compensation of Oregon judges relative to other states
- Issues relating to recruitment of quality applicants for open positions in judiciary
- Activities of the Task Force for Judicial Excellence
- Potential for a public officials compensation commission

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: According to the *2006 Survey of Judicial Salaries*, prepared by the National Center for State Courts, Oregon ranks 12th out of 13 western states with regard to salaries for general jurisdiction court judges. The table below provides a breakdown of salaries for state high courts, state appellate courts, and general jurisdiction courts:

<u>Court</u>	<u>Mean Salary</u>	<u>Highest Nationally</u>	<u>Oregon Salary</u>	<u>Oregon Rank</u>
State High Court (Oregon Supreme Court)	\$137,074	\$184,300 (DE)	\$105,199	50 of 51
Appellate Court (Oregon Court of Appeals)	\$132,102	\$172,452 (CA)	\$102,800	38 of 39*
General Jurisdiction Court (Oregon Circuit Court)	\$122,559	\$168,100 (DE)	\$ 95,800	50 of 51

**Appellate Courts exist in only 39 states*

House Bill 2417 directs the State Court Administrator to prepare a report every two years for submission to the Legislative Assembly regarding the compensation of state judges. The report would include compensation for justices of the Oregon Supreme Court, the Oregon Court of Appeals, the Oregon Tax Court, and Circuit court judges, the average compensation for judges with closely equivalent responsibilities in other states, and the amount of funding needed by the Oregon Judicial Department for the following biennium to increase the compensation of judges to the average national compensation for judges with equivalent responsibilities. The report would also calculate separately the positions of Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court and Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

2/21/2007 4:56:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.