

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Barker
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Winters

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and Be Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 17 – 0 – 4

House – Yeas: D. Edwards, Galizio, Garrard, Hanna, Jenson, Morgan, Nolan, Shields
– Nays:

– Exc: Nathanson

Senate – Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Johnson, Morse, Nelson, Schrader, Verger, Westlund, Whitsett

– Nays:

– Exc: Carter, Gordly, Winters

Prepared By: Robin LaMonte, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: 6/21/07

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes salaries of judges.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Necessity of the bill

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds the annual salary adjustment of 14% on July 1, 2007 and July 1, 2008 that was funded in the Judicial Department budget bill (SB 5518) and disconnects legislator and judge salaries.

BACKGROUND: The Task Force for Judicial Excellence, whose membership included business leaders, lawyers and others, was formed to address judicial compensation in Oregon. The task force stated that Judges in Oregon: are paid salaries near the bottom of all states; are paid less than first-year associate lawyers in Portland's top civil firms; are paid less than many public lawyers and less than many other public officials; and have not received a salary increase since 2002. For more than 35 years salaries for judges in the Court of Appeals, Supreme Court, Circuit Court and Oregon Tax Court have been set in statute and modified during legislative session.