

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

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

Vote: 18 – 7 – 0

House

Yeas: Beyer, Buckley, Cowan, Garrard, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Read, Richardson, G. Smith,

Nays: Freeman, Nolan, Thatcher, Whisnant

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Johnson, Monroe, Thomsen, Verger, Winters

Nays: Girod, Nelson, Whitsett

Exc:

Prepared By: John Borden, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: February 24, 2012

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Increases number of Court of Appeals judges from 10 to 13. Provides that new positions become operative October 1, 2013.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Court of Appeals caseload trend
- National Center for State Courts Court of Appeals study (August 2010)
- Timing of appointments and Governor’s appointment
- Fiscal impact

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Removes a further increase in the number of Court of Appeals judges from 13 to 16 that would have been operative October 1, 2015.

**BACKGROUND:** The Court of Appeals, which was statutorily created in 1969, consists of ten judges who hear appeals from trial courts, agencies, and boards. The administrative head of the Court of Appeals is the Chief Judge, who is appointed by the Chief Justice.

Judicial salaries, as with most other elected official’s salaries, are set in statute. The annual salary for an Appellate Court Justice is \$122,820. In addition to their annual salaries, judicial compensation also includes “other payroll expenses (OPE),” which is an estimated 31.2% of total compensation, and is calculated based on a judge’s annual salary. OPE is primarily comprised of a retirement benefit, a health benefit, and a social security contribution. A judge’s retirement benefit is defined by statute (ORS 238).