

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

House Committee on Judiciary

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: Ways and Means

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Whitney Perez, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates policy in Oregon to pay judges no less than the median salary for judges in comparable positions in comparable states. Modifies current annual salaries for judges. Adds annual rate increases to judge salaries through January 1, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The pay rate for Oregon judges is among the lowest in the nation. According to the 2011-2014 report from the Oregon Judicial Branch, salaries for Oregon judges was ranked as the 45th lowest nationally and 50th when adjusted for cost of living.

House Bill 4145 makes it the policy in Oregon to pay judges no less than the median salary for judges serving in comparable positions in comparable states. This policy is based on the need to attract and retain highly qualified individuals to serve as judges. HB 4145 also modifies the annual salaries for Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Oregon Tax Court and circuit court judges. It then establishes annual rate increases of those salaries through January 1, 2019.