

HB 5014

Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability

HB 5014 is the budget bill for Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability.

The Commission investigates and acts upon complaints of judicial misconduct or disability, based on the Oregon Code of Judicial Conduct. The Commission's jurisdiction extends to circuit and appellate court judges, to *pro-tem* judges and judicial referees, and to justices of the peace.

The Commission budget is fully supported by General Fund. The Public Safety Subcommittee approved a budget of \$245,939 General Fund, and one half-time position (0.50 FTE). To assist in balancing the statewide General Fund budget, funding was reduced by 3.5% from the current service level.

The total General Fund support provided in the bill includes \$18,226 specifically designated for extraordinary expenses arising from the investigation and prosecution of complaints. Extraordinary expenses vary greatly from one biennium to the next, but this level of support is sufficient to cover costs in a typical biennium. The agency may need, however, to request additional support for extraordinary expenses during either the 2018 or 2019 Sessions, or from the Emergency Board, if the actual costs incurred exceed the budgeted amount.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends HB 5014 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.