

SB 1581 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

**Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110
Implementation**

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases base annual salaries for judges serving in circuit courts, the Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court, and the Tax Court. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Judges' responsibilities
- Comparison with salaries in Executive Branch legal departments
- National ranking of judicial salaries

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

As of July 2021, the salary of Oregon judges ranked 50th out of the 50 States and Washington D.C. when cost of living was factored in. Salaries for Oregon judges are also approximately 5-10% below the mean and median salaries of all States and U.S. Territories if cost of living is not considered. Oregon judges' salaries would continue to receive cost of living adjustments at the same time such adjustments are provided to management service employees in the executive branch under a separate statute, ORS 292.428.

Senate Bill 1581 increases the salaries of judges in Oregon's circuit courts, Court of Appeals, Supreme Court, and Tax Court.