

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS31732 / H0746

This legislation provides for an increase in judicial salaries by increasing the salary of supreme court justices from \$165,212 to \$169,508, which is an increase of \$4,296, or 2.6%. Since the salary of court of appeals judges is set at \$8,000 less than supreme court justices, district court judges are set at \$6,000 below court of appeals judges, and magistrate judges are set at \$8,000 less than district court judges, meaning each type of judge will receive a \$4,296 increase. The percentage increase will be slightly higher for each of the types of judges, up to a 3.0% increase for magistrate judges. This legislation also provides a retirement bonus incentive for judges and justices who serve through the end of their term before retiring, if they do so in such a way as to allow their positions to be filled by election, rather than appointment. Magistrate judges are also included, although their positions are always filled by appointment. This one-time bonus would be \$25,000.

FISCAL NOTE

The salary increases, along with associated variable benefit costs, will create a \$958,741 impact to the General Fund. The costs of the program to pay bonuses to judges and justices who serve to the end of their terms is unknown, since it is unknown how many judges and justices would take advantage of it. However, the benefit paid would be a \$25,000 one-time bonus cost per retiring judge or justice who meets the stated qualifications.

Contact:

Representative Mike Moyle
Representative Bruce D. Skaug
(208) 332-1000

DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).