

# Fiscal Analysis

## PROBATE COURT SALARIES AND DISTRICTS



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**Bill/Sponsor**                      **SENATE BILL 461 as passed by the Senate, Sen. Alan Cropsey**

**House Committee**                Judiciary

### **Analysis**

#### **Summary**

Senate Bill 461 would amend the Revised Judicature Act of 1961 to do the following:

- (1) Increase from \$43,000 to \$45,724 the additional annual salary that a part-time probate judge may receive from the county, beyond his or her \$20,000 salary.
- (2) Allow a part-time probate judge to receive another additional salary, for total compensation of up to 85% of the salary of a Justice of the Supreme Court, if the county board of commissioners agreed to reimburse the State for the additional annual salary and the probate judge agreed to participate in a plan of concurrent jurisdiction and a family court plan, and not to engage in the practice of law other than as a judge.
- (3) Identify different combinations of counties that could make up the first probate court district, and eliminate authorization for the 14th, 16th, and 19th probate court districts.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

The salary-related changes in the bill would increase local and state costs to the extent that counties opted to increase the salaries of individual part-time probate court judges. (There are currently 10 such judges in the state.) Since counties would be required to reimburse the state for any increased salary costs, increased state costs would be limited to Social Security and defined contribution retirement costs and would, therefore, be minimal compared to increased salary costs paid by counties.

Given that the changes to authorized probate court districts would not affect currently-existing districts, those changes would have no direct local or state fiscal impact.

### **Analyst(s)**

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