

Legislative Analysis



DISTRICT COURT JUDGE COMPENSATION

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House Bill 5749 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Andrew Fink
Committee: Judiciary
Revised 4-22-22

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5749 would amend the Revised Judicature Act to increase the compensation of district court judges to equal that of probate judges, beginning October 1, 2023.

Currently, district court judges are paid a salary that is equal to 84% of the salary of a justice of the Supreme Court as of December 31, 2015. Probate and circuit court judges are paid a salary that is equal to 85% of the salary of a Supreme Court justice as of that date. Salaries of district, probate, and circuit court judges are also adjusted based on any wage increases approved by the Civil Service Commission for nonexclusively represented employees (state workers not eligible for union representation). Currently, the salary of a probate or circuit court judge is \$159,917, and the salary of a district court judge is \$158,027.

The bill would increase the salary of a district court judge to equal the salary of a probate judge, as calculated under the act, beginning October 1, 2023.

MCL 600.8202

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 5749 would have a fiscal impact on the state and on local units of government. The fiscal impact would result from increasing the salary of a district court judge to equal the salary paid to a probate judge. The FY 2022 cost to the state for a probate court judge is \$182,272. This amount includes the probate court judge's salary of \$159,917 and \$22,355 in estimated payroll taxes and retirement costs. The FY 2022 cost to the state for a district court judge is \$180,226. This amount includes the district court judge's salary of \$158,027 and \$22,199 in estimated payroll taxes and retirement costs. Currently, there are 234.0 district court judges. The fiscal impact would be an additional cost of \$478,879. State costs are funded roughly 98% with state GF/GP revenue. Local costs for judgeships vary from district to district.

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