

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

122nd General Assembly of Ohio

REVISED

BILL: DATE:
STATUS: SPONSOR:
LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: Yes
CONTENTS:

State Fiscal Highlights

STATE FUND	CY 1998	CY 1999	CY 2000	CY 2001 & POST
General Revenue Fund				
Revenues	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Expenditures	-0-	\$96,884	\$100,297	\$103,769
based on an effective date of 1/2/99				

- Am. Sub H.B. 438 of the 121st G.A. established a uniform pay scale for Common Pleas Court Judges that sets the state portion of salaries at the total salary minus a local contribution based upon county population as determined by the decennial census.
- The state would contribute the above new sums, which include the contribution for PERS (at 13.31% of gross state salary) and other administrative costs (at 2.4% of gross state salary). Currently, pay increases are scheduled to occur on January 1st of both 2000 and 2001.

Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL FUNDS	CY 1998	CY 1999	CY 2000	CY 2001 & POST
Erie County				
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	- 0 -	\$15,693	\$15,693	\$15,693
based on an effective date of 1/2/99				

- Instead of paying a varying amount, Erie County would pay the base share prescribed to Common Pleas Court Judges. The above shows the judicial salary expenditures faced by Erie County, including the contribution for PERS (at 13.55% of gross local salary).



Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Common Pleas Court Judges

Salaries for common pleas court judges consist of a state share and a local share paid by the county. The local contribution varies slightly depending on a county's population as determined by the decennial census. This local amount is based on eighteen cents per capita in the county, but may not be less than \$3,500 nor more than \$14,000. The state share is equal to the total salary minus the local contribution. Am. Sub. H.B. 438 of the 121st General Assembly established common pleas court judges salaries at \$97,550 in 1999, \$100,500 in 2000 and \$103,500 for 2001 and beyond. However, these amounts may be adjusted as recent studies have indicated that Ohio's judicial salaries continue to lack behind those of judges in neighboring states. In the 1990 census, Erie County had a population of 76,779. The county will provide \$13,820.22 towards the judge's salary in 1999, 2000 and 2001. The 2000 census will alter the local contribution for 2002 and the remainder of the next decade. The state will provide a salary of \$83,730 in 1999, \$86,680 in 2000 and \$89,680 in 2001.

PERS estimate

State and local elected officials are exempt from membership in PERS (Public Employees Retirement System), unless they choose to become members. However, most do. Therefore, this analysis includes PERS payments assuming that the Erie County Common Pleas Court Judge joins PERS. The state contributes at the rate of 13.31% of gross state salary, while the county pays 13.55% based upon the local contribution. In addition to PERS, the state also makes contributions for other purposes: 1.45% of gross state salary for Medicare for all employees hired after April 1986, 0.67% for worker's comp and 0.28% for the administration of the Central Accounting System. These costs have also been included in the State Fiscal Highlights section.

Additional Local Costs

The addition of a common pleas court judge should also create additional costs for the county in staffing and equipment required to serve the needs of the judge. LBO contacted the Office of the County Administrator and was told that such additional costs would be borne by the county's general fund. An exact amount of this local cost has yet to be determined, but would not be incurred until FY 1999. The possibility exists that current staff levels would be reallocated to cut back on the number of any additional employees that would be hired. The new judge will serve in the domestic relations division of the Court of Common Pleas. Additionally, the bill enables the judge of the probate division elected in 2002 to share concurrent jurisdiction with the judge of the general division of the court.

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