



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
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Testimony Supporting House Bill 5034

AN ACT CONCERNING RETIREMENT PROVISIONS RELATING TO JUDGES,  
FAMILY SUPPORT MAGISTRATES AND COMPENSATION COMMISSIONERS

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Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill 5034 An Act Concerning Retirement Provisions Relating to Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners.

This bill makes technical corrections to the pension provisions for judges, family support magistrates and compensation commissioners based upon the changes that were adopted by the General Assembly last session. Following the agreement with the State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition changes to the pension provisions for non-represented employees and also for the judicial branch were proposed by the Governor. The changes based upon that agreement made changes to provisions related to vesting, benefit calculation and the normal retirement age.

The bill corrects the potential for an overlap in effective dates of changes to the pension plan by clarifying that it applies to retirements on or before September 1, 2011 and that the changes are effective to those who are still in service on or after September 2, 2011. Further, the bill clarifies that longevity payments will be not imputed to a judge, family support magistrate or compensation commissioner for purposes of calculating the amount of the retirement benefit.

This bill also makes a modification to the amount of the cost of living increase that would be applicable to judges, family support magistrates and compensation commissioners who retire after September 2, 2011. The bill that passed last year reduced the amount of the COLA from three percent to two percent. The change reflected in subsections two and three would bring the cost of living increase for retirees in line with the changes made for represented employees resulting from the SEBAC 2011 agreement.

Finally, the bill permits the judges, family support magistrates and compensation commissioners the opportunity, if an irrevocable election is made prior to July 1, 2013, to maintain their existing pension plan by paying the additional actuarial cost of maintaining that benefit.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. I respectfully request the Committee support House Bill 5034. With that, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.