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## OLR Bill Analysis

### SB 988

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL COMPENSATION.***

#### **SUMMARY**

For FY 22, this bill increases the following by approximately 4.5%: (1) salaries for judges, family support magistrates, family support referees, and judge trial referees; (2) additional amounts that certain judges receive for performing administrative duties; and (3) salaries of certain officials whose compensation, by law, is determined in relation to a Superior Court judge's salary or state referee's per-diem rate.

Additionally, the bill establishes annual cost of living allowances (COLAs) for these salaries and amounts in each of the three subsequent fiscal years (i.e., FYs 23, 24, and 25). The COLA for each of these fiscal years must be the prior year's increase in inflation (i.e., the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers) or 2.5%, whichever is greater.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **JUDICIAL SALARIES**

Table 1 shows the bill's changes to judicial salaries for FY 22.

**Table 1: Judicial Salaries**

<i>Position</i>	<i>Current Salary</i>	<i>Salary Starting July 1, 2021 (FY 22)</i>
Supreme Court chief justice	\$206,617	\$215,915
Chief court administrator (if a judge)	198,545	207,480
Supreme Court associate judge	191,178	199,781
Appellate Court chief judge	189,063	197,571
Appellate Court judge	179,552	187,663
Deputy chief court administrator (if a Superior Court judge)	176,277	184,209

Superior Court judge	172,663	180,460
Chief family support magistrate	150,314	157,078
Family support magistrate	143,060	149,498
Family support referee	223/day*	233/day*
Judge trial referee	259/day*	271/day*

\* Plus expenses, mileage, and retirement pay

### **ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES**

The law provides judges extra compensation in addition to their annual salaries for taking on certain administrative duties. The judges who receive this additional amount are (1) the appellate system's administrative judge; (2) each judicial district's administrative judge; and (3) each chief administrative judge for (a) facilities, administrative appeals, the judicial marshal service, or judge trial referees, and (b) the Superior Court's family, juvenile, criminal, or civil divisions. The bill increases these additional annual payments from \$1,177 to \$1,230 starting July 1, 2021 (i.e., FY 22).

### **RELATED INCREASES**

The bill's provisions also result in salary or rate increases for other officials or judges whose compensation is tied to those of Superior Court judges or judge trial referees. Specifically:

1. the salaries of workers' compensation commissioners vary depending on experience and are tied to those of Superior Court judges (CGS § 31-277);
2. the salaries of probate court judges vary depending on probate district classification, and range from 45% to 75% of a Superior Court judge's salary (CGS § 45a-95a);
3. senior judges receive the same per-diem rates as judge trial referees (CGS §§ 51-47b & 52-434b); and
4. the probate court administrator's salary is the same as that of a Superior Court judge (CGS § 45a-75).

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 28 Nay 9 (03/29/2021)