

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-988

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL COMPENSATION.

Vote Date: 3/29/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/15/2021

File No.: 454

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Judiciary Committee

Rep. Steven J. Stafstrom, 129th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill will increase salaries of Connecticut judges which comes from the recommendations of the Connecticut Commission on Judicial Compensation. Connecticut trial court judges' salaries have continually been ranked very low out of all of the jurisdictions in the country. Increasing judicial compensation could lead to more attorneys contemplating application to the Judicial Selection Commission to become judges.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Chief Justice, Richard Robinson; supports this bill stating that the recommendations from the Connecticut Commission on Judicial Compensation are reasonable and affordable. It is also stated that the last time that judges received an increase was on July 1, 2019 and that the real value of judicial compensation should be maintained through adjustments that respond to inflation so that the salary a judge accepts upon joining the bench is not eroded.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association; supports this bill stating that it is essential for Connecticut's judicial system to attract highly qualified and experienced attorneys to serve as judges and it would be in Connecticut's best interest to increase judicial compensation. It is noted that the salaries of Connecticut trial court judges are ranked 44th of the 51 jurisdictions in the country.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed

Reported by: Caroline Sullivan

Date: 04/06/2021