

Commission on Judicial Compensation

October 9, 2024

Brief History

- Commission on Compensation of Elected State Officers and Judges
 - Made recommendations to Legislature
- PA 12-93 (Codified at CGS § 51-47c)
 - Created the 12-member Commission on Judicial Compensation



Commission Members

- ▶ Appointments
 - four by the governor
 - one each by the six legislative leaders
 - two by the Supreme Court chief justice
- ▶ To the extent practicable, appointed members should have experience in financial management, human resources administration, or determining executive compensation

Overview of CGS § 51-47c

- ▶ By January 2, 2013 and every four years thereafter, requires the commission to:
 1. examine the adequacy of and need to adjust the compensation for certain judicial officials for the following four fiscal years;
 2. make compensation recommendations; and
 3. report its findings to the governor, Office of Policy and Management secretary, legislature, chief justice, and chief court administrator

Judicial Officials

- ▶ Commission must make compensation recommendations for the following judicial officials:
 - Supreme Court chief justice and associate justices
 - Appellate Court chief judge and judges
 - Superior Court judges
 - chief court administrator, if a judge or justice
 - deputy chief court administrator, if a judge
 - appellate, judicial district, and chief administrative judges;
 - senior judges and judge trial referees, chief family support magistrate, family support magistrates, and family support referees

Factors to Consider in Making Recommendations

- ▶ Law requires the commission to consider all appropriate factors when making compensation recommendations
- ▶ Seven specific factors to consider:
 1. state's overall economic climate;
 2. inflation rate;
 3. compensation for federal and other states' judges;
 4. compensation for attorneys employed by government agencies, academic institutions, and private and nonprofit organizations;
 5. state's interest in attracting highly qualified and experienced attorneys to serve in judicial capacities;
 6. compensation adjustments for state employees during the applicable fiscal years
 7. state's ability to fund compensation increases