

FISCAL NOTE

	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
NON-ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACT			
Anticipated Expenditure increase			
GENERAL FUND	\$820,818	\$852,757	\$852,757

Source of expenditure increase:

This bill increases Supreme Court justices' annual salary by \$12,250, to \$187,250, district court judges' annual salary by \$11,200, to \$171,200, and circuit court judges' annual salary by \$8,700, to \$153,700. The total impact of the salary increases is \$791,646 for fiscal year (FY) 2025 and \$798,901 for FY 2026 and FY 2027, when including taxes, retirement benefits, and the impacts on retirees under the original judicial retirement plan.

In addition to adjusting justices' and judges' salaries, this bill allows Supreme Court justices and district, circuit, and chancery court judges to receive cost-of-living assistance if the county they reside in has a significantly higher cost of housing than the statewide population weighted average cost of housing. An expenditure increase of \$29,172 for FY 2025 and \$53,856 for FY 2026 and FY 2027 is attributable to the portion of the bill that provides for cost-of-living assistance for the specified justices and judges.

Assumptions:

The Supreme Court indicated that the cost-of-living policy applicable to judges and justices will mirror the current cost-of-living assistance policy the judicial branch has in place for other staff of the judicial branch. The Supreme Court noted that the current policy for staff is the same policy as the executive branch.

The expenditure increase for the cost-of-living assistance assumes the current monthly stipend amount of \$2,244 would apply. Additionally, the cost-of-living assistance is assumed to apply to the two judges residing in Teton County. The cost-of-living assistance would apply to all of FYs 2025, 2026, and 2027 for the circuit court judge, while the district court judge would receive the cost-of-living assistance for one month in FY 2025 and the entirety of FYs 2026 and 2027.

The expenditure increase for the cost-of-living assistance is assumed to be covered by vacancy savings for the 2025-2026 biennium. The expenditures for this purpose will become a part the branch's standard budget request for the 2027-2028 biennium.

The expenditure for the salary increase assumes the current composition of five (5) Supreme Court justices, 26 district court judges, one (1) chancery court judge, and 24 circuit court judges. It is assumed the chancery court judgeship will be filled on January 1, 2025, as mandated by current statute. The salary increases are included in the branch's budget request for the 2025-2026 biennium as a part of the standard budget.

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