

House Study Bill 180 - Introduced

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED JUDICIAL BRANCH
BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to judicial officer salaries, and including
2 effective date provisions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 602.1501, Code 2025, is amended by
2 striking the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

3 **602.1501 Judicial officer salaries.**

4 1. A salary rate specified in subsection 2 takes effect at
5 the start of the pay period in which the applicable fiscal year
6 begins. The salaries provided for in this section shall be paid
7 from moneys appropriated to the judicial branch.

8 2. a. (1) Each district judge except the chief judge of
9 a judicial district shall receive an annual salary equal to a
10 specified percentage of the annual rate of compensation for a
11 district judge of the United States in effect at the beginning of
12 the applicable state fiscal year, as follows:

13 (a) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, seventy-one
14 percent.

15 (b) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, seventy-two
16 and thirty-three hundredths percent.

17 (c) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, seventy-three
18 and sixty-six hundredths percent.

19 (2) This paragraph is repealed July 1, 2028.

20 b. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2028, and adjusted
21 for each fiscal year thereafter, each district judge except the
22 chief judge of a judicial district shall receive an annual salary
23 equal to seventy-five percent of the annual rate of compensation
24 for a district judge of the United States in effect at the
25 beginning of the applicable state fiscal year.

26 c. The following judicial officer salaries shall be
27 calculated as a percentage of the state district judge salary for
28 a given fiscal year as specified in this subsection, as follows:

29 (1) For the chief justice of the supreme court, one hundred
30 twenty-four percent.

31 (2) For each justice of the supreme court except the chief
32 justice, one hundred nineteen percent.

33 (3) For the chief judge of the court of appeals, one hundred
34 eleven percent.

35 (4) For each judge of the court of appeals except the chief

1 judge of the court of appeals, one hundred seven percent.

2 (5) For each chief judge of a judicial district, one hundred
3 four percent.

4 (6) For each district associate judge, associate juvenile
5 judge, and associate probate judge, eighty-nine percent.

6 (7) For each magistrate, twenty-seven percent, subject to
7 section 602.6402.

8 (8) For each senior judge, six percent.

9 3. Notwithstanding subsection 2, if the supreme court
10 determines that appropriations to the judicial branch for a
11 given fiscal year are insufficient to provide the full allowable
12 judicial officer salaries set forth in subsection 2 or other good
13 cause exists, the supreme court may provide judicial officers a
14 lower annual salary.

15 Sec. 2. Section 602.9104, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
16 2025, is amended to read as follows:

17 a. A judge to whom this article applies shall be paid
18 an amount equal to the basic salary of the judge as set by
19 ~~the general assembly~~ section 602.1501, reduced by an amount
20 designated as the judge's required contribution to the judicial
21 retirement fund. The amount designated as the judge's required
22 contribution shall be paid by the state in the manner provided in
23 subsection 2.

24 Sec. 3. Section 602.9204, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
25 2025, is amended to read as follows:

26 a. A judge who retires on or after July 1, 1994, and who is
27 appointed a senior judge under section 602.9203 shall be paid a
28 salary as determined by ~~the general assembly~~ section 602.1501.

29 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect June 20, 2025.

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 This bill relates to judicial officer salaries. Under current
34 law, the general assembly determines the salaries of judicial
35 officers by enacting the salaries in annual appropriations bills.

1 The bill instead creates a formula to calculate judicial
2 officer salaries. The bill requires the judicial officer
3 salaries to be paid from the moneys appropriated to the judicial
4 branch in a given fiscal year. The bill provides an increase
5 over four fiscal years for a state district judge's salary from
6 71 to 75 percent of the salary of a federal district judge, and
7 sets the salary of other judicial officers based on a percentage
8 of the salary of a state district judge as follows: the chief
9 justice of the supreme court, 124 percent; other justices of
10 the supreme court, 119 percent; the chief judge of the court of
11 appeals, 111 percent; a judge of the court of appeals except the
12 chief judge, 107 percent; a chief judge of a judicial district,
13 104 percent; a district associate judge, associate juvenile
14 judge, or associate probate judge, 89 percent; a magistrate, 27
15 percent, subject to Code section 602.6402 (additional magistrate
16 allowed); and a senior judge, 6 percent.

17 The bill allows the supreme court to provide lower salaries
18 for judicial officers if the supreme court decides that the
19 moneys appropriated in a given fiscal year are not sufficient to
20 provide the full allowable salaries for judicial officers, or if
21 other good cause exists.

22 The bill makes conforming changes to Code sections 602.9104
23 and 602.9204. By operation of law, the bill affects the salaries
24 of county attorneys of counties with a population of 200,000 or
25 less (Code section 331.752(5)).

26 The bill takes effect June 20, 2025.