

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the General Assembly
From: Iowa Judicial Branch
Re: 5265 XD—Judicial Compensation Rates and Appropriation
Date: 2/5/2016

The Governor's proposed salary bill in the 2015 legislative session (SSB1290) included a 5% salary increase for all judges and magistrates. This bill provides the Governor's proposed 5% salary increase effective July 1, 2016, raising the salary of all judges and magistrates 9.5% over four fiscal years.

Prior to January 3, 2014, Iowa judges and magistrates had not received a salary increase since July 1, 2008. Between 2008 and 2015, the majority of Iowa state employees received increases in their base pay of at least 11.5%.

Stagnant judicial salaries continue to be a major factor in the decline of interest in judicial vacancies. In general, there has been a significant decline in the number of applicants for judicial vacancies; overall, there has been a reduction in the diversity of applicant pools, as there have been fewer private practicing attorneys applying for judicial vacancies.