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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Snyder DATE TYPED 2/18/04 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Chief Judges' Salaries SB 222/aSJC/aHAFC

ANALYST Wilson/Koplik

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
	\$32.4			Recurring	General Fund

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05			
	\$70.1	\$70.1	Recurring	Other State Funds

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HAFC Amendment

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee amendment increases the member contributions of the judicial and magistrate retirement acts from 5 to 5 ½ percent. This is contingent upon judges receiving a 6 percent salary increase, an amount already incorporated into the General Appropriations Act of 2004. PERA should generate another \$70.1 thousand from this half percent increase in member contributions.

Synopsis of SJC Amendment

The Senate Judiciary Committee Amendment gives only the presiding magistrate of a magistrate district where three or more divisions operate as a single court an annual salary that is seventy-five percent of the Chief Judge of a metropolitan court.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 222 appropriates \$32.4 from the General Fund to the AOC to provide for the salary differential of chief judges.

Significant Issues

Currently, under Section 34-1-9, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals receive a small (\$2,000 per year for the Chief Justice, \$1,900 for the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals) salary stipend for the additional duties required of a chief justice or judge.

This bill will apply a similar stipend to all District Court Chief Judges, the Chief Judge of the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court and the presiding judge in Magistrate courts with three or more judges (currently applies only to Dona Ana and Santa Fe magistrate courts).

Whatever the court level, the chief or presiding judge has the administrative responsibility for that judicial district or court and will take on such additional duties as:

- Serving as the appointing or administrative authority on all personnel matters.
- Responsibility for court scheduling and assignment of dockets and duties to the other judges in the court or district.
- Responsibility for all court budget, audit, and budget submissions.
- Serving on the Chief Judges Council or on subcommittees thereof and be required to travel to Albuquerque, Santa Fe or other parts of the state to attend meetings.
- Attending legislative hearings and committee meetings.
- Responsibility for all matters related to court facilities and security.
- Responsibility to coordinate with local law enforcement, jails, district attorneys and public and private defenders to assure proper flow of cases through the court.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$32.4 contained is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2005 shall revert to the General Fund.

RLG/dm:lg:yr