



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB17-288

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 17-1167
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Gardner

Date: April 10, 2017
Bill Status: Senate Appropriations
Fiscal Analyst: Kerry White (303-866-3469)

BILL TOPIC: DECOUPLE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER COMPENSATION FROM JUDGES' COMPENSATION

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
General Fund		(\$94,300)
Appropriation Required: None.		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing reduction in expenditures.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill alters the manner by which base salaries for members of the General Assembly are set. Under the bill, a member elected between 2018 and 2022 or appointed to fill a vacancy will be paid a base salary of \$38,000 per year. Prior to the first day of the 2025 legislative session and every two years thereafter, the director of research for Legislative Council Staff (LCS) is required to adjust the base salary for inflation using January 1, 2019, as the starting point for the calculation, and to post this information on the General Assembly's website. The base salary for members of each legislative session beginning on or after January 2025 is to be the most recently adjusted amount calculated by LCS.

Background

Under current law, member salaries are required to be set to an amount equal to 25 percent of the total salary paid to the judges of the county court in Class B counties. The FY 2017-18 Long Bill sets the salary for a judge in a Class B county as \$161,200. Under current law, and assuming that the amount does not change in FY 2018-19, all members of the General Assembly will earn a base salary of \$40,300 per year, beginning in January 2019. Member salaries are paid in twelve monthly installments.

State Expenditures

Assuming the salary for county judges is constant, this bill is anticipated to result in General Fund savings of \$94,300 in FY 2018-19 (half year impact) and \$188,600 in FY 2019-20. The first two years of savings assume all 65 House seats and 17 Senate seats are affected by the change. Beginning in FY 2020-21, this amount will increase to include all 35 Senate seats. In future years, savings will depend on the comparison between judge salaries and inflation changes; these impacts have not been estimated.

Beginning in FY 2024-25, LCS workload will increase to adjust member salaries for inflation and to post this information on its website. These workload changes can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 9, 2017, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 10, 2017, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Legislative Council Staff