



SB 185 - DA Salary Parity Bill

CDAC Fact Sheet

- The intent of the bill is to obtain salary parity among publicly funded lawyers within the criminal justice system who do substantially similar work on behalf of the citizens of the state.
- Public Defenders and the attorneys at the Office of the Attorney General are completely state funded and also receive PERA.
- The Public Defender's office and the OAG have uniform minimum salaries regardless of geographical location in the state and receive regular cost of living raises as well as merit raises in most years.
- Other than the elected DA, DAs offices/personnel are locally funded and offer only local retirement options through county systems if adopted. (80% of the salary of the Elected District Attorney is paid by the state and the elected DA is PERA eligible.)
- The bill seeks to pay the Assistant DA (ADA is #2 position) no less than the midpoint salary paid to Supervising Deputy State Public Defenders by requiring a minimum salary of \$119,357 per annum with an incremental contribution by the state starting at 60% this year and ending at 80% in four years. The bill also provides that, for this position only, the county commissioners for the judicial districts can vote to allow the ADA to be PERA eligible just like the elected DA.
- The bill seeks to pay the Chief Deputy DA no less than the midpoint salary paid to Lead Deputy Public Defenders by requiring a minimum salary for the Chief Deputy DA of \$104,256 per annum with an incremental state contribution of 30% this year and ending at 50% in four years.
- The bill seeks to pay Deputy DAs no less than the minimum starting salary of a Deputy State Public Defender by requiring a minimum salary of \$57,276 per annum with an incremental contribution by the state of 10% this year and ending at 20% in four years.

(OVER)



Further Relevant Information:

The Office of the Attorney General also has salary ranges relevant to this proposal. CDAC has used the positions of the public defender as a benchmark since their work is most similar to that of prosecutors, but there are several similar positions held by prosecutors in the criminal section of the AG's office.

Assistant DAs (#2 position) are most similar to the position of Deputy AG's. The salary range for a Deputy AG is \$118,450 - \$172,939 for a midpoint of \$145,698. Even if compared to the next level AG, a 1st Assistant AG, those salaries range from \$104,654 - \$152,796 for a midpoint of \$128,725.

Chief Deputy DAs are most similar to Senior Assistant AGs, although Chief Deputy DAs have more supervisory and training related duties than Senior Assistant DAs. The salary range for a Senior Assistant AG is \$90,663 - \$132,369 for a midpoint of \$111,516.

To be hired into the criminal section at the AG's office, one must generally have at least five years of experience as a prosecutor. However, the AG does hire other lawyers right out of law school into the "Attorney 1" position. That salary range is \$63,160 - \$75,928 for a midpoint of \$69,544.