

Sara Thomas
2-27-19

Idaho Constitution Article 5, §17 states that judicial salaries “shall be as provided by statute.....” Thus, the salaries of Idaho’s judicial officers is set in Idaho Code section 59-502. That statute specifically articulates the salary of the Supreme Court justices. Thereafter it provides for differentials between the different types of Idaho Judges. It provides:

The Judges of the Court of Appeals shall receive \$10K less

The District Judges shall receive \$6K less than the COA

Magistrate Judges shall receive \$12K less than District Judges

The RS I ask you to print today is a bill that would amend section 59-502 to provide for a CEC for Idaho’s judges.

As you may recall, earlier this year JFAC provided for a CEC for traditional, meaning non-judicial, state employees. That CEC provides a 3% increase in the salary pool for state agencies, to be distributed to permanent employees, with a minimum increase of \$550 each employee, and the remaining amount to be distributed based on merit.

The judiciary worked with Chairman Lakey as well as Chairman Dayley to define a CEC for judges that is similar to the CEC for other state employees, but which takes into consideration the existing statutory salary differentials. This RS:

Presents an amendment to the statute which would provide an increase in the total judicial salary pool of 2.95% - just under the amount provided for non-judicial employees.

Provides that the salary of a Supreme Court Justice would be set at \$155,200, an increase of \$3,800, which is a 2.5% increase.

The increase is then distributed equally throughout the judiciary thereby maintaining the current statutory differentials.

With that explanation, I would ask that this committee print RS26940, and look forward to a future hearing on the merits of the bill.

Type	Salary		Leadership
Supreme Court	155,200	2.5%	158,200
Court of Appeals	145,200	2.7%	148,200
District Court	139,200	2.8%	142,200
Magistrate	127,200	3.1%	