

REPORT OF THE REVENUE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

(Crawford, Bannister, Stavrinakis, Lowe & Hewitt - Staff Contact: Julia Foster)

SENATE BILL 1005 JUDICIAL SALARIES

Summary of Bill:

This bill increases the annual salary for family court judges from 92.5 percent to 95 percent of the salary for Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, making their salary on par with circuit court judges.

Estimated Fiscal Impact:

The bill would raise salaries for 66 family court judges, increasing Judicial's annual expenses by \$675,000 (\$385,440 in salary and \$289,560 in fringe). PEBA reports no operational impact. The increase impacts the Judges and Solicitors Retirement System's (JSRS) unfunded actuarial accrued liability by about \$3.9 million and reduces its funded ratio by 0.4%. This could be covered in a one time appropriation or an adjustment of the employer contributions of approximately \$327,500 annually.

Subcommittee Action/Explanation:

The Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, May 6 at 9am.

Full Committee Action/Explanation:

N/A

Other Notes/Comments:

[CLICK HERE](#) to Enter Notes/Comments



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

WWW.RFA.SC.GOV • (803)734-3793

This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	S. 1005	Introduced on March 11, 2026
Subject:	Judicial Salaries	
Requestor:	Senate Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Tipton	
Impact Date:	March 24, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill increases the annual salary for family court judges from 92.5 percent to 95 percent of the salary for Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

Judicial anticipates this bill will increase annual expenses by at least \$675,000 beginning in FY 2026-27 for the salary increase for 66 family court judges. This includes an increase in salary expenses of \$385,440 and fringe expenses of \$289,560. Judicial indicates that additional General Fund appropriations would be needed to implement the salary increase. To note, the increase in fringe expenses assumes that the employer contribution for retirement remains at 62.94 percent of employee salary.

The Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) indicates that the bill will have no expenditure impact related to agency operations, as the changes will be implemented with current staff and resources.

Based on information provided by PEBA, the salary increase for family court judges under the bill would increase the unfunded actuarial accrued liability for the Judges and Solicitors Retirement System (JSRS) by approximately \$3,896,000 and would reduce the funded ratio of the JSRS by 0.4 percent. Should the General Assembly choose to fund this increase, this bill would result in one-time expenditure of approximately \$3,896,000 in FY 2026-27. Absent one-time funding to cover the increase in the unfunded actuarial accrued liability, this bill would require an increase in employer contributions for all active members of JSRS totaling approximately \$327,500 beginning in FY 2026-27. This includes employer contributions from Judicial, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination (CPC), the Commission of Indigent Defense (CID), and the Administrative Law Court (ALC).

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on March 11, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill increases the annual salary for family court judges from 92.5 percent of the salary for Associate Justices of the Supreme Court to 95 percent of the salary for Associate Justices of the Supreme Court. The bill also makes clarifying changes to references regarding judges of the circuit court and judges of the court of appeals.

Judicial reports that increasing the annual salary for family court judges to 95 percent of the salary for Associate Justices of the Supreme Court equates to a salary increase of \$5,840 per year for 66 family court judges, resulting in a total increase in salary expenses of \$385,440 beginning in FY 2026-27. Judicial further anticipates additional fringe expenses of \$289,560 associated with the salary increase for 66 family court judges beginning in FY 2026-27. Therefore, this bill will increase expenditures for Judicial by at least \$675,000 beginning in FY 2026-27. Judicial indicates that additional General Fund appropriations would be needed to implement the salary increase. To note, the increase in fringe expenses assumes that a one-time contribution is made to fund the JSRS and the employer contribution remains at 75 percent of employee salary.

PEBA indicates that the bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency, as the changes will be implemented with current staff and resources.

PEBA reports that the annual salary increase for family court judges under this bill would increase the unfunded actuarial accrued liability for the JSRS by approximately \$3,896,000 and would reduce the funded ratio of the JSRS by 0.4 percent. Should the General Assembly choose to fund this increase, this bill would result in a one-time expenditure of approximately \$3,896,000 in FY 2026-27. Absent one-time funding to cover the increase in the unfunded actuarial accrued liability, this bill would require the JSRS employer contribution rate to grow from 62.94 percent to 63.83 percent, an increase of 0.89 percent, in order to maintain the current funding period. This increase would apply to all 168 current active members of the JSRS employed by Judicial, CPC, CID, and ALC with a current systemwide payroll of approximately \$36,800,000 per year. Therefore, a 0.89 percent increase in the employer contribution rate will increase employer contributions expenditures for these agencies by \$327,500 beginning in FY 2026-27.

State Revenue

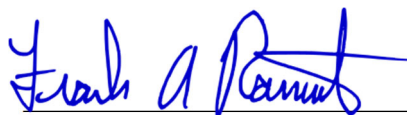
N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director

South Carolina General Assembly
126th Session, 2025-2026

S. 1005

STATUS INFORMATION

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Elliott, Stubbs, Walker, Blackmon and Garrett

Document Path: SR-0124CEM26.docx

Introduced in the Senate on March 11, 2026

Introduced in the House on April 30, 2026

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Ways and Means**

Summary: Judicial Salaries

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Body</u>	<u>Action Description with journal page number</u>
3/11/2026	Senate	Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 5)
3/11/2026	Senate	Referred to Committee on Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 5)
4/9/2026	Senate	Committee report: Favorable Judiciary (Senate Journal-page 280)
4/28/2026	Senate	Read second time (Senate Journal-page 40)
4/28/2026	Senate	Roll call Ayes-39 Nays-4 (Senate Journal-page 40)
4/29/2026	Senate	Read third time and sent to House (Senate Journal-page 31)
4/30/2026	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 157)
4/30/2026	House	Referred to Committee on Ways and Means (House Journal-page 157)

View the latest [legislative information](#) at the website

VERSIONS OF THIS BILL

03/11/2026

04/09/2026

1 ~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

2 Indicates New Matter

3

4 COMMITTEE REPORT

5 April 9, 2026

6

7

S. 1005

8

9 Introduced by Senator Elliott

10

11 S. Printed 4/9/26--S.

12 Read the first time March 11, 2026

13

14

15

16 **THE COMMITTEE ON SENATE JUDICIARY**

17 To whom was referred a Bill (S. 1005) to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by amending
18 Section 14-1-200, relating to the establishment of salaries of Supreme Court justices and court of
19 appeals, etc., respectfully

20

REPORT:

21 That they have duly and carefully considered the same, and recommend that the same do pass:

22

23 LUKE RANKIN for Committee.

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

A BILL

11 TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 14-1-200,
12 RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SALARIES OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES AND
13 COURT OF APPEALS, CIRCUIT COURT, AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES, SO AS TO PROVIDE
14 A REVISED SALARY SCHEDULE FOR JUDGES.
15

16 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

17

18 SECTION 1. Section 14-1-200 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

19

20 Section 14-1-200. The General Assembly shall establish the salary of the Chief Justice and
21 Associate Justices of the Supreme Court in the annual general appropriation act with the salary of the
22 Chief Justice to be one hundred five percent of the salary fixed for Associate Justices of the Supreme
23 Court and shall fix the salaries for the court of appeals, circuit court, and family court according to the
24 following schedule:

25 (1) ~~The~~the chief judge of the court of appeals shall receive a salary in an amount equal to ninety-nine
26 percent of the salary fixed for Associate Justices of the Supreme Court;

27 (2) ~~Judges~~judges of the court of appeals shall receive a salary in an amount equal to ninety-seven
28 and one-half percent of the salary fixed for Associate Justices of the Supreme Court;

29 ~~(3) and circuit court judges~~judges of the circuit court shall receive a salary in an amount equal to
30 ninety-five percent of the salary fixed for Associate Justices of the Supreme Court; and

31 ~~(3)(4) Judges~~judges of the family court shall receive a salary in an amount equal to ~~ninety-two and~~
32 ~~one-half~~ninety-five percent of the salary fixed for Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

33

34 SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

35

---XX---