

Judicial Compensation Meeting
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 17, 2020
10:00 A.M. Via Zoom/Broadcast on YouTube Live*

1. Convene Meeting

- The Meeting was convened by Chairman George Jepsen at 10:00 A.M.

2. Remarks by the Chair

- Commission members received a draft of the report last Friday, December 11th.

3. Approval of the November 24th Minutes

- The minutes from the November 24th meeting were approved unanimously.

4. Discussion of Draft Report

- Duke Chen (OLR) made technical changes to the report:
 - Changed the fiscal year from FY 21 to FY 22 in the conclusions section
 - In the table under the recommendations section, changed the fiscal years ranging from FY 21 through FY 24 to FY 22 through FY 25
- Commissioner Monte Frank:
 - The Chief Justice recommended that the commission tie future increases based on the CPI-U permanently, not just the next three years.
 - Conclusions in the report aren't consistent with the Chief Justice's recommendations.
 - It makes sense that the commission's recommendation has the permanent increase based into it based on CPI-U.
- Chairman George Jepsen:
 - The commission's charge is about the next four years. In four years another commission is supposed to be established.
 - Would be uncomfortable going beyond the four years the commission is charged with.
- Commissioner Leander Dolphin:
 - Concerned that making a recommendation beyond the scope of this commission's charge will be overreach.
 - A sentence could be included in the report saying the legislature should consider enacting something that keeps the recommendations of the last commission until another commission is appointed.
- Commissioner Gary Klein:
 - Don't want the legislature to take offense or think that the commission is driving in the legislature's lane.
- Commissioner Monte Frank:
 - The commission should recommend that the commission structure will be left in place to examine the judicial compensation every four years as already in statute. In the interim, increases to be tied to the CPI-U.
 - Include in the report that if the commission does not reconvene in four years as required by statute, then the judicial salaries will increase at the rate of the CPI-U.
 - This protects judges and provides an incentive for the statutory obligations to be met.
- Chairman George Jepsen:

- Include that if a commission is not reformulated in four years, this commission recommends that cost of living adjustments be maintained.
- Motion to amend the report accordingly. Approved unanimously – report will be amended.
- Commissioner Lincoln Woodard:
 - Proposed one amendment to the factor five section on p. 14. Change “million dollar lawyer” to “hiring private firm attorneys.”

5. Vote on Acceptance of Final Report

- Motion of approval of report as amended. Approved unanimously.

6. Adjournment

- Chairman Jepsen adjourned the meeting at 11:15 A.M.

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