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Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill makes the following two changes: (1) clarifies that the former township of Northampton is no longer within the jurisdiction of the Akron Municipal Court and (2) adds an additional judge for the Summit County Court of Common Pleas.

(1) Jurisdiction of the Akron Municipal Court

Since its merger with the City of Cuyahoga Falls in 1985, the former Township of Northampton has been within the jurisdiction of the Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court. Prior to the merger, the township was within the jurisdiction of the Akron Municipal Court. The bill clarifies current law by deleting an out of date reference to the township that is still included in the statutory description of the jurisdiction of the Akron Municipal Court. The clarification will have no fiscal effect on the state or any of the affected local jurisdictions.

(2) Summit County Court of Common Pleas judgeship

The bill adds one additional judge for the Summit County Court of Common Pleas to be elected in 2006, term to begin January 3, 2007.

Judicial compensation costs

Base salary. The annual salary of a judge of a court of common pleas consists of a state-paid share and a local share paid by the county as follows:

- The *local share* varies slightly depending on a county's population as determined by the decennial census. The local amount is based on 18 cents per capita in the county, but may not be less than \$3,500 or more than \$14,000.
- The *state share* is equal to the annual salary minus the local share. Sub. H.B. 712 of the 123rd General Assembly provided annual salary increases each year from 2002 through 2008. The annual salaries of the judges and justices of the court will increase by the lesser of 3% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the 12-month period ending on September 30 of the previous year. In the case of judges for whom a portion of the salary is paid locally, the entire amount of the increase is added to the state share.

The Supreme Court of Ohio estimates that, when the new judge is added to the Summit County Court of Common Pleas for a term to begin January 3, 2007, the annual salary of a judge of a court of common pleas will be \$119,550. Of that amount, based on the 2000 Census, Summit County will have to pay the maximum of \$14,000 as required under current law (Summit County population totals 542,899). The state will cover the balance of the annual salary, which for the remainder of state FY 2007 (January 3, 2007 through June 30, 2007), amounts to \$52,775. For FY 2008, the first full state fiscal year of the judgeship, the state will expend \$105,550 plus whatever cost-of-living increase that is approved for that year by the Supreme Court.

Retirement

State and local elected officials are exempt from membership in PERS (Public Employees Retirement System), unless they choose to become members. Most do. Therefore, this analysis includes PERS payments, which assumes that the new judge added to the Summit County Court of Common Pleas joins PERS. The state and local PERS contributions would work as follows:

- The state contributes at the rate of 13.77% of its supplemental salary amount, while the county pays 13.55% on its base share amount.
- Under that PERS contribution formula, Summit County will pay \$1,897 annually, while the state will contribute \$14,534 in FY 2008, the first full state fiscal year of the new common pleas court judgeship.

Other state costs

In addition to PERS, the state also makes contributions for other purposes, totaling approximately 8.23%, which includes 1.45% of gross salary for Medicare for all employees hired after April 1986, 0.1371% for workers' compensation, 0.28% for the administration of the Central Accounting System, and approximately 6.36% in health insurance contributions. It should be noted that the state's share in health insurance contributions has been increasing and is expected to continue increasing in the future. These miscellaneous annual contributions will cost the state \$8,687 ($\$105,550 \times 8.23\%$) in FY 2008, the first full state fiscal year of the new common pleas court judgeship.

Other Summit County costs

According to Summit County Court of Common Pleas administrative staff, the new judge will require three additional support staff (one

bailiff, one staff attorney, and one judicial assistant). Salary costs associated with these three staff positions are estimated to total \$250,000 per year plus the cost of benefits. Courtroom space already exists and no further capital expenditures are anticipated.

LSC fiscal staff: Jamie L. Doskocil, Budget Analyst

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