



Grants-to-Counties for Juvenile Court Judge Salaries

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As reported by ACCG during the past session, HB 5 was passed and funded by the General Assembly. The legislation increased the grants-to-counties to fund juvenile court judge salaries from \$85,000 to \$100,000. The intent of the increase was to provide those judges whose salaries were set by the county at a level below \$100,000 per year, an increase in salary. Legislators wanted to increase the baseline salary for juvenile court judges to the \$100,000 annual amount.

Many of the juvenile court judge's salaries far exceed the \$100,000 amount and are tied to the superior court judge salary. During all discussions regarding HB 5, the intent was for those counties who had adequately paid their juvenile court judge more than \$100,000 per year the increase in the grant amount could be used to defray the costs to the county for the salary of the judge.

Recently it was communicated by the Council of Juvenile Court Judges that counties must actually give a salary increase to the judges making over \$100,000 in order to be eligible for the increase in the grant. In many jurisdictions this would result in the juvenile court judge's annual salary to exceed the superior court judge salary and in some instances put them as the highest paid official in the county.

We are working with the legislators involved to resolve this issue and provide the increase in the grant to defray the cost to those counties who actually paid the juvenile judge an adequate salary. The legislation clearly states the increase is to contribute toward the salary of the judges. The intent was that the baseline salary for all full time judges be set at \$100,000.

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