

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5910

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 4, 2024

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5910.

This bill increases the annual salary of certain public employees and officers.

The bill continues the annual salary adjustment for justices and judges for an additional two years, based on the change in the Consumer Price Index. Under current law, the annual adjustment began on January 1, 2021, and is set to end with payments made in 2025. The final adjusted payments under this bill will be made in 2027. This bill also recognizes the current salaries for justices and judges as of January 1, 2024. The bill also establishes \$207,166.50 as the salary for Presiding Judges of the Superior Court and Presiding Judges of the Tax Court.

The bill also increases the annual salary for members of the Legislature from \$49,000 to \$82,000, commencing in 2026. The salary was last increased in 2002. The bill codifies the annual allowance provided to each member of the Senate and General Assembly for member staff services, which will be \$150,000. The current allowance is \$135,000 and is not provided for by statute.

The bill increases from \$175,000 to \$210,000 the cap on the annual salary that is paid to the executive director of each full time legislative staff operating under the direction of the Senate President, the Speaker of the General Assembly, and the Minority Leaders of each House of the Legislature. It also adds the executive director of the Office of Legislative Services operating under the direction of the Legislative Services Commission to this cap on annual salary and requires that this executive director's salary be consistent with the annual salary of the other executive directors.

This bill increases the annual salary for the Governor of the State from \$175,000 to \$210,000, commencing in 2026. The Governor's salary was last increased in 2002.

The bill also increases the annual salary for the members of the Governor's cabinet from \$175,000 to \$210,000. The salary was last increased in 2018.

The bill adds the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission, the Colonel and Superintendent of the State Police, the Director of the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, the Secretary of Higher Education, the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle

Commission, the State Comptroller, and the Chief Technology Officer to the officers receiving the statutorily designated salary. The bill also removes the Colonel and Superintendent of the State Police and the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission from the officers whose salaries are determined by the Civil Service Commission.

The bill specifies that the Lieutenant Governor, serving as the head of a principal department, will be ineligible for a salary increase until the commencement of the term of office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor inaugurated in January of 2026.

Finally, the bill determines that amounts received by the State from the federal Emergency Management Performance Grant Program allowable for the salary costs of the Superintendent of the State Police will be paid to the Superintendent of the State Police as supplemental compensation in addition to the annual salary established in statute.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that increasing the annual salary of certain public employees and officers, including certain justices and judges, members of the Legislature, Executive Directors operating under the direction of the Senate President, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Minority Leaders of each House of Legislature, and the Legislative Services Commission, the Governor, and certain members of the Governor's cabinet will result in annual expenditure increases to the State ranging from \$3 million to \$8.8 million for calendar years 2024 through 2027. Local governments may also incur expenditure increases of no more than \$180,000 for calendar years 2026 and 2027 due to statutory linkages between the salaries of certain local government officials and certain judges provided that the State does not cover the cost increase. An additional State expenditure increase of about \$3 million is possible in calendar year 2028. For calendar year 2029 and every year thereafter, additional State expenditure increases totaling up to two percent of the salary cost for members of the Legislature are possible.