

**ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB414**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday February 25, 2009  
**Committee On:** Judiciary  
**Introducer:** Ashford  
**One Liner:** Change salary of Supreme Court judges

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Ashford, Christensen, Coash, Council, Lathrop, Lautenbaugh, McGill, Rogert  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Proponents:**

Sen. Brad Ashford  
Loran Schmit  
Robert Ensz  
Robert Bartle  
John Lindsay  
Mike Heavican

**Representing:**

Introducer  
self  
NE District Judges Assoc.  
NE State Bar Assoc.  
NE County Judges Assoc.  
NE Supreme Court

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Judges' salary bills are considered in the first year of each biennial session. Legislative Bill 414 was introduced without specific numbers because of the uncertainty of the salaries for state employees at the time of introduction, since such percentage increases are factors in the decision for the increases in judges' salaries, along with comparability with other states, consumer price index changes, and other considerations.

It is the intent of LB 414 to increase the salaries of the judges in Nebraska by an amount that would recognize the factors cited above.

The current salary for Supreme Court judges is \$135,880.60. Under the provisions of LB 414, that salary would increase each year for the next two years in an amount established by the Legislature and the Governor.

Although the bill only specifies salary increases for Supreme Court judges, other judges (district, county, juvenile, appellate and worker's compensation court judges) will also receive an increase in salary as their salaries are statutorily tied to the Supreme Court judge salaries.

LB 414 contains an emergency clause.

**Explanation of amendments:**

Committee Amendment AM 812 would insert the following dollar amounts in LB 414 to provide for an increase in the salaries of the judges of the Supreme Court to \$139,277.61 beginning July 1, 2009 and an increase to \$142,759.55 beginning July 1, 2010. The changes reflect a 2.5% increase annually for two consecutive years.

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Brad Ashford, Chairperson