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H.703

Introduced by Representatives Joseph of North Hero, Ode of Burlington, and  
Troiano of Stannard

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Judiciary; salaries and fees; Probate judges

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase the  
salaries for the Essex and Grand Isle Probate judges.

An act relating to increasing Probate judge salaries

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds:

(1) In a 2012 report on the salary of Vermont Probate judges, the National Center for State Courts recommended that the General Assembly combine the two smallest probate jurisdictions, Essex and Grand Isle, with other jurisdictions. If this was not done, the report “strongly recommended establishing a higher level of pay for probate judges in these two counties” in order to “attract and retain high quality personnel.” Specifically, the report recommended that the Essex and Grand Isle Probate judges’ salaries be raised to at least 20-25 percent of a full-time Probate judge’s salary.

1           (2) Vermont’s only full-time Probate judge, the Chittenden County  
2           Probate judge, currently earns a yearly salary of \$125,372.00. In order to  
3           attract high-quality personnel to the positions as recommended by the National  
4           Center for State Courts report, the Essex and Grand Isle Probate judges’  
5           salaries should be increased from \$14,722.00 per year to \$28,000.00 per year,  
6           which is approximately 22 percent of the full-time Chittenden County Probate  
7           judge’s salary.

8           Sec. 2. 32 V.S.A. § 1142 is amended to read:

9           § 1142. PROBATE JUDGES

10           (a) The Probate judges in the several Probate Districts shall be entitled to  
11           receive the following annual salaries, which shall be paid by the State in lieu of  
12           all fees or other compensation:

	Annual Salary as of	Annual Salary as of
	July 10, 2016	July 09, 2017
15           (1) Addison	\$57,169	\$59,427
16           (2) Bennington	72,271	75,126
17           (3) Caledonia	50,698	52,701
18           (4) Chittenden	120,608	125,372
19           (5) Essex	14,163	<del>14,722</del> <u>28,000</u>
20           (6) Franklin	57,169	59,427
21           (7) Grand Isle	14,163	<del>14,722</del> <u>28,000</u>

1	(8) Lamoille	39,911	41,487
2	(9) Orange	47,460	49,335
3	(10) Orleans	46,383	48,215
4	(11) Rutland	102,473	106,521
5	(12) Washington	78,741	81,851
6	(13) Windham	63,641	66,155
7	(14) Windsor	86,293	89,702

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9 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on passage.