



SUPREME COURT OF KANSAS

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Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance
Testimony in Opposition to
Senate Bill 395 – Calculations for Retirement Benefits

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Chairman Longbine and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear here today to testify in opposition of Senate Bill 395, which would establish \$99,636 as the new ceiling for calculating judicial retirement benefits for those judges joining the KPERS Retirement System for Judges on or after July 1, 2018.

Based on a January 2017 NCSC survey, Kansas district judge pay ranks 50th out of 51 in the nation before adjusting for cost of living. This bill takes that low pay and lowers it even further for retirement calculation purposes. This bill would negatively impact the Judicial Branch's ability to attract qualified attorneys to the bench. Quite simply, this reduced retirement benefit, when coupled with already below-market pay, would likely discourage an accomplished attorney from leaving any private sector partnership where the pay, benefits, and the retirement plan would be more lucrative. Because this bill would negatively impact the operations of the Judicial Branch, we respectfully request the committee not pass this bill.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.