

Pat Gabel Pay Act

**From:** Gabel, Patricia <[Patricia.Gabel@vermont.gov](mailto:Patricia.Gabel@vermont.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 5:39 PM

**To:** Jeanette White <[JWhite@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:JWhite@leg.state.vt.us)>

**Subject:** RE: Pay Act

Jeannette, the Judiciary does support the version of the Pay Act that passed the House. If you're considering any changes to that, please let me know and I will be happy to testify or provide written comment.

There is one full-time Probate Judge in Chittenden, and his statutory salary is considered the statutory salary of a full-time Probate Judge. The other Probate Judges are considered part-time judges, and the relative percentages that are identified for each county were established by the Legislature at the time of restructuring. (You may remember that the Judicial Operation Commission that recommended restructuring of the court system into a fully-unified system had recommended having fewer Probate Judges covering regions, with all of them full-time. I think the Judicial Operation Commission recommended five full-time Probate Judges for the entire state. When the restructuring bill passed the House, the bill provided for eight full-time Probate Judges for the entire state. The Senate reverted to fourteen Probate Judges, one in each county, and established what their statutory salaries should be.) I'm not sure we ever knew how they determined the percentages, but Sen. Sears may remember. That was how the law finally read when restructuring passed the legislature.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information that would be of assistance to the Committee.

Regards,  
Pat