

House Research Act Summary

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- 1 **Office of administrative hearings.** Subjects the chief administrative law judge to (1) the state constitutional ban on a judge holding any other office except military reserve, (2) the jurisdiction of the Judicial Standards Board, and (3) the code of judicial conduct.
Requires administrative law judges and workers' compensation judges to be lawyers and be free of political or economic associations that would impair impartiality.
Appointment as either a compensation or administrative law judge does not preclude becoming a specialist in any area so long as requirements for that specialization are met. Requires the chief administrative law judge to annually report to the department of finance the amount of credit payable to the workers' compensation special fund for time compensation judges spend on non-compensation matters.
Subjects administrative law judges and compensation judges to the code of judicial conduct, except that they may serve as members of governmental boards if so directed by the legislature. Requires the chief judge to provide training about the code. Provides that reports required to be filed by the code must be filed with the chief judge.
Requires the chief judge to apply the code provisions, to the extent applicable, to the other administrative law and compensation judges. Requires the judge to follow the procedural requirements of the commissioner's plan for state employees if adverse personnel action is taken based in whole or in part on a code violation.
Lets compensation and administrative law judges mediate, arbitrate, or take other appropriate action on matters referred to the office of administrative hearings (OAH) by the state or federal judiciary or the workers' compensation court of appeals.
- 2 **Hearings before administrative law judge.** Requires the OAH to include in the official file any tape recording of a hearing. Requires the file and tape recording to be returned to the agency or entity for which the hearing was held.

3 **Effective date.** December 31, 2000.