

H.R. 282, Territorial Judgeship Retirement Equity Act of 2022

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 15, 2022

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2023	2023-2027	2023-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	1	3
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	1	3
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2033?	< \$5 billion	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 282 would allow district court judges in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands to begin receiving retirement annuities earlier. Under current law, judges in those territories can retire, or continue serving in senior status, and receive annuities at the age of 65, if they have served for at least 15 years. Under the bill, they would be eligible to receive annuities at the age of 50 after having served for at least 10 years (the length of one appointed term).

In addition, H.R. 282 would set the annual cost-of-living adjustment applied to the annuity for those judges at the same rate as that for all other district court judges.

Four judges currently serve on district courts in the three territories (not including judges in senior status). Based on a review of the age and service length of those judges and historical data about the average period of service for federal judges, CBO expects that some of those judges would retire or enter senior status several years earlier over the 2023-2032 period than they would under current law. Because judges who retire or enter senior status create a vacancy—requiring the appointment of a new, full-time judge—enactment of the legislation would increase the total compensation paid by the judiciary.

The salaries and annuities of federal district court judges are classified as direct spending in the budget.



Using information provided by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, CBO estimates that providing the annuity and associated benefits for a judge would cost about \$248,000 in 2023. In total, CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 282 would increase direct spending by \$3 million over the 2023-2032 period.

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 282 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

Table 1.
Estimated Budgetary Effects of H.R. 282

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars										2023-2027	2023-2032	
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032			
Increases in Direct Spending													
Estimated Budget Authority	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	3
Estimated Outlays	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	3

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding; * = between zero and \$500,000.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jon Sperl. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.