ASSEMBLY, No. 615

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 19, 1955

By Mr. BARNES

(Without Reference)

AN ACT concerning the salaries of certain judges of county district courts, and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 2A of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, each judge of a county district court who is required by law to devote his entire time to his judicial duties and is prohibited from practice of law, shall receive an annual salary of $16,000.00.

2. In each county having more than 1 county district court judge, the judge designated as presiding judge shall receive extra compensation in addition to his salary, at the rate of $500.00 per annum for the time during which he shall act as presiding judge.

3. Such annual salary shall be in lieu of any compensation prescribed or provided for by any other law.

4. The salary provided herein shall be payable in the same manner as other salaries are payable by a county.

5. If, upon the effective date of this act, the board of chosen freeholders shall have made no provision in its annual budget for that fiscal year for payment of such salaries for the remainder of such fiscal year, said board may appropriate and use any county funds not otherwise appropriated or dedicated, or may appropriate and raise such funds as may be necessary

for such purpose for the remainder of such fiscal year, and may borrow the same, or any part thereof, on the credit of the county and may issue obligations therefor in the same manner as other similar obligations are issued under the provisions of Title 40 of the Revised Statutes.

6. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill affects the 4 judges of the Essex County District Court who are the only district court judges who must devote their entire time to their duties and who are prohibited from the practice of law. All of the other district court judges in the State function part time and are permitted to practice law.

As the result of legislation passed since the adoption of the new Constitution, the monetary jurisdiction of the district court has been increased in contract matters to $1,000.00, and in matters involving the operation of an automobile, to $3,000.00, and in cases transferred from the Superior and County Courts to the District Courts, the Court or jury can fine amounts in excess of $1,000.00 and $3,000.00 respectively. Appeals from determination by Rent Control Boards are heard in the district court.

From available statistics it now appears in civil matters where the venue lies in Essex county over 90% of such matters are within the jurisdiction of the district court.

The present salary of the 4 Essex county district court judges is $14,000.00 per annum, and the judge designated as presiding judge receives an additional $500.00 per annum.

Over 25% of district court actions commenced in the State are instituted in the Essex county district court.