152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**SENATE BILL NO. 174**
SPONSOR:	**Senator Gay**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO PENSIONS FOR THE STATE JUDICIARY.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act is effective upon signature by the Governor. The provisions of this Act become effective January 1, 2024.
2. This Act would add Justices of the Peace, Commissioners and Masters in Chancery to the Judiciary Pension Plan. Current employees in those positions would have the opportunity to make an irrevocable decision to decline participation in the Judiciary Pension Plan and continue in the State Employee Pension Plan.
3. There are currently 60 Justices of the Peace, 24 Commissioners and 3 Masters in Chancery that would be affected by the provisions of this Act.
4. The Act also increases the employee contribution rate for the first 24 years of service for judicial officers covered after the effective date of this Act:

   From: 3% of annual compensation in excess of $6,000 up to the Social Security wage base and 5% of total compensation in excess of the Social Security wage base:

   To: 4% of the annual compensation in excess of $6,000 up to the Social Security wage base and 5% of total compensation in excess of the Social Security wage base.
5. This Act would increase the employer (State) contribution rate from 11.13% of payroll to 17.88% of payroll. Annual costs reflected below represent the net difference between the increased costs to the Judiciary Pension Plan and reduced costs to the State Employee Pension Plan.
6. No assumptions are made as to whether accrued annual leave would be paid to an employee upon joining the Judiciary Pension Plan.

Cost:

Fiscal Year 2024:	$1,161,800
Fiscal Year 2025:	$1,161,800
Fiscal Year 2026:	$1,161,800

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Office of the Controller General