



Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

770 L Street, Suite 700 • Sacramento, California 95814-3393

Telephone 916-323-3121 • Fax 916-323-4347 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

CURTIS L. CHILD
Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

April 6, 2011

Hon. Gloria Negrete McLeod, Chair
Senate Public Employment & Retirement Committee
State Capitol, Room 4061
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 503 (Vargas), as introduced – Co-sponsor
Hearing: Senate Public Employment & Retirement Committee – April 11, 2011

Dear Assembly Member Negrete McLeod:

The Judicial Council is pleased to co-sponsor SB 503 (Vargas) with the California Judges Association, which allows subordinate judicial officers (SJO) who become members of the Judges Retirement System II (JRS II) to purchase a fraction of those years at an actuarially equivalent rate, because it will improve the ability of the branch to recruit and retain the most qualified candidates for judicial appointments.

Current law authorizes a judge who was an SJO to elect to purchase service credit for all of the time he or she served as a full-time SJO, provided that the judge is not receiving or entitled to receive a retirement benefit for that period of service. To receive this credit in JRS II, the judge must pay into JRS II a sum equal to the actuarial present value of the increase in benefits due to the additional service. Because of the JRS II formula (3.75 percent per year of service), the cost of purchasing this time is very high. For a judge who was an SJO for many years, this cost may be prohibitive. These financial disincentives may deter some well-qualified SJOs from seeking a judicial appointment, and thereby eliminate strong candidates from the pool of those seeking a judgeship.

The modification of this provision contained in SB 503 would allow a judge to purchase any part of his or her years of service as an SJO so that each judge considering exercising this option would have the flexibility to make the choice that is most financially sound for that judge. The Judicial Council has identified judicial retirement as a critical factor in recruiting and retaining a diverse pool of high caliber attorneys to seek judicial office. The modest reform in SB 503 will advance that objective by making judicial appointments more attractive to experienced SJOs without imposing any new cost or responsibility on the state.

For these reasons the Judicial Council asks for your aye vote on SB 503.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Kenny', is written over the typed name.

Tracy Kenny
Attorney

TK/yt

cc: Members, Senate Public Employment & Retirement Committee

Hon. Juan Vargas, Member of the Senate

Mr. Michael Bolden, Executive Principal Consultant, Senate Public Employment & Retirement Committee

Mr. Aaron Maguire, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor

Ms. Kirsten Kolpitzke, Deputy Director of Legislation, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Mr. Scott Chavez, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy

Mr. Mike Belote, Lobbyist, California Judges Association



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April 25, 2011

Hon. Christine Kehoe, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 503 (Vargas), as introduced – Co-sponsor
Hearing: Senate Appropriations Committee – May 2, 2011

Dear Senator Kehoe:

The Judicial Council is pleased to co-sponsor SB 503 (Vargas) with the California Judges Association, which allows subordinate judicial officers (SJO) who become members of the Judges Retirement System II (JRS II) to purchase a fraction of those years at an actuarially equivalent rate, because it will improve the ability of the branch to recruit and retain the most qualified candidates for judicial appointments.

Current law authorizes a judge who was an SJO to elect to purchase service credit for all of the time he or she served as a full-time SJO, provided that the judge is not receiving or entitled to receive a retirement benefit for that period of service. To receive this credit in JRS II, the judge must pay into JRS II a sum equal to the actuarial present value of the increase in benefits due to the additional service. Because of the JRS II formula (3.75 percent per year of service), the cost of purchasing this time is very high. For a judge who was an SJO for many years, this cost may be prohibitive. These financial disincentives may deter some well-qualified SJOs from seeking a judicial appointment, and thereby eliminate strong candidates from the pool of those seeking a judgeship.

Hon. Christine Kehoe

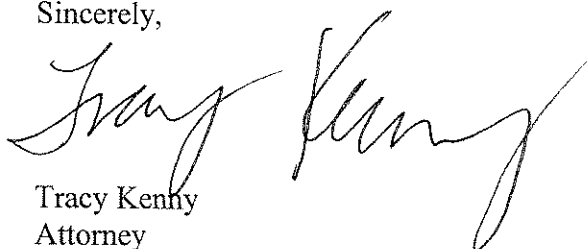
April 25, 2011

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The modification of this provision contained in SB 503 would allow a judge to purchase any part of his or her years of service as an SJO so that each judge considering exercising this option would have the flexibility to make the choice that is most financially sound for that judge. The Judicial Council has identified judicial retirement as a critical factor in recruiting and retaining a diverse pool of high caliber attorneys to seek judicial office. The modest reform in SB 503 will advance that objective by making judicial appointments more attractive to experienced SJOs without imposing any new cost or responsibility on the state.

For these reasons the Judicial Council asks for your aye vote on SB 503.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tracy Kenny".

Tracy Kenny
Attorney

TK/yt

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee

Hon. Juan Vargas, Member of the Senate

Ms. Maureen Ortiz, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee

Mr. Aaron Maguire, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor

Ms. Kirsten Kolpitcke, Deputy Director of Legislation, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Mr. Matt Osterli, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy

Mr. Mike Belote, Lobbyist, California Judges Association



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May 23, 2011

Hon. Warren T. Furutani, Chair
Assembly Public Employees, Retirement and
Social Security Committee
State Capitol, Room 6025
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 503 (Vargas), as introduced – Co-sponsor
Hearing: Assembly Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security Committee –
June 8, 2011

Dear Assembly Member Furutani:

The Judicial Council is pleased to co-sponsor SB 503 (Vargas) with the California Judges Association, which allows subordinate judicial officers (SJO) who become members of the Judges Retirement System II (JRS II) to purchase a fraction of those years at an actuarially equivalent rate, because it will improve the ability of the branch to recruit and retain the most qualified candidates for judicial appointments.

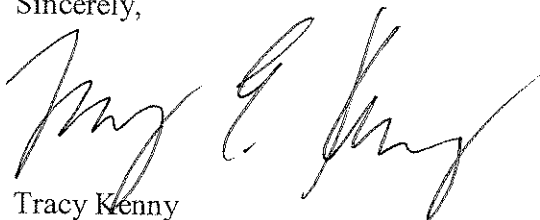
Current law authorizes a judge who was an SJO to elect to purchase service credit for all of the time he or she served as a full-time SJO, provided that the judge is not receiving or entitled to receive a retirement benefit for that period of service. To receive this credit in JRS II, the judge must pay into JRS II a sum equal to the actuarial present value of the increase in benefits due to the additional service. Because of the JRS II formula (3.75 percent per year of service), the cost of purchasing this time is very high. For a judge who was an SJO for many years, this cost may be prohibitive. These financial disincentives may deter some well-qualified SJOs from seeking a

judicial appointment, and thereby eliminate strong candidates from the pool of those seeking a judgeship.

The modification of this provision contained in SB 503 would allow a judge to purchase any part of his or her years of service as an SJO so that each judge considering exercising this option would have the flexibility to make the choice that is most financially sound for that judge. The Judicial Council has identified judicial retirement as a critical factor in recruiting and retaining a diverse pool of high caliber attorneys to seek judicial office. The modest reform in SB 503 will advance that objective by making judicial appointments more attractive to experienced SJOs without imposing any new cost or responsibility on the state.

For these reasons the Judicial Council asks for your aye vote on SB 503.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Kenny", written in a cursive style.

Tracy Kenny
Attorney

TK/yt

cc: Members, Assembly Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security Committee

Hon. Juan Vargas, Member of the Senate

Ms. Karon Green, Chief Consultant, Assembly Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security Committee

Mr. Aaron Maguire, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor

Ms. Kirsten Kolpitcke, Deputy Director of Legislation, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Mr. Terry Mast, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy

Mr. Mike Belote, Lobbyist, California Judges Association



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September 12, 2011

Hon. Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 503 (Vargas) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

The Judicial Council is pleased to co-sponsor SB 503 (Vargas) with the California Judges Association, which allows subordinate judicial officers (SJO) who become members of the Judges Retirement System II (JRS II) to purchase a fraction of those years at an actuarially equivalent rate, because it will improve the ability of the branch to recruit and retain the most qualified candidates for judicial appointments.

Current law authorizes a judge who was an SJO to elect to purchase service credit for all of the time he or she served as a full-time SJO, provided that the judge is not receiving or entitled to receive a retirement benefit for that period of service. To receive this credit in JRS II, the judge must withdraw all contributions from the other retirement system and forego any pension from that system, and then pay to CalPERS a sum equal to the actuarial present value of the increase in JRS II benefits due to the additional service the judge is seeking to purchase. SB 503 requires the judge to make this election at the time that he or she is planning to retire, so that the cost of purchasing the time can be calculated with the best information regarding the actuarial cost.

Because the JRS II formula provides 3.75 percent per year of service for those judges serving for at least 20 years at age 65, the cost of purchasing this time can be very high. For a judge who

was an SJO for many years, this cost may be prohibitive. These financial disincentives may deter some well-qualified SJOs from seeking a judicial appointment, and thereby eliminate strong candidates from the pool of those seeking a judgeship.

The modification of this provision contained in SB 503 would allow a judge to purchase any part of his or her years of service as an SJO so that each judge considering exercising this option would have the flexibility to make the choice that is most financially sound for that judge. The Judicial Council has identified judicial retirement as a critical factor in recruiting and retaining a diverse pool of high caliber attorneys to seek judicial office. The modest reform in SB 503 will advance that objective by making judicial appointments more attractive to experienced SJOs without imposing any new cost or responsibility on the state.

For these reasons the Judicial Council requests your signature on SB 503.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Kenny", written in a cursive style.

Tracy Kenny
Attorney

TK/yt

cc: Hon. Juan Vargas, Member of the Senate

Mr. Brian Putler, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor

Mr. Mike Belote, Lobbyist, California Judges Association