

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 2473H.01I
Bill No.: HB 1139
Subject: Judges; Courts; Governor and Lt. Governor
Type: Original
Date: March 4, 2025

Bill Summary: This proposal adds an associate circuit judge to the twenty-third judicial circuit.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
General Revenue	(\$325,729)	(\$392,842)	(\$400,385)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(\$325,729)	(\$392,842)	(\$400,385)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
General Revenue	2 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE

- ☒ Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- ☐ Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§478.550 – Adds circuit judge to the 23rd judicial circuit

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** state §478.550 adds one additional circuit judge to the Twenty-Third Judicial circuit to be appointed in 2026. The FY26 salary of an associate circuit judge is projected to be \$166,154 plus E&E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time; \$861 on-going).

The addition of an associate circuit judge includes a senior court clerk for the associate circuit judge. The FY25 starting salary for a senior court clerk is \$46,057 plus E &E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time; \$861 on-going).

Therefore, the cost of proposed legislation for the addition of an associate circuit judge and a senior court clerk is estimated to be approximately \$218,167 (salaries + E&E) annually.

Oversight has no information to the contrary. Oversight assumes the judge will be appointed by the Governor and an associate judge will be elected in 2028. Oversight will present the fiscal impact of this proposal beginning in FY26.

Officials from the **Office of the Governor (GOV)** state this bill adds to the Governor's current load of appointment duties. Individually, additional requirements should not fiscally impact the GOV. However, the cumulative impact of additional appointment duties across all enacted legislation may require additional resources for the GOV.

Oversight has no information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will present no fiscal impact for this proposal for the GOV.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Costs – OSCA (\$478,550)</u>			
Personal service	(\$177,610)	(\$217,395)	(\$221,743)
Fringe benefits	(\$142,163)	(\$173,691)	(\$176,850)
Equipment and expense	(\$5,956)	(\$1,756)	(\$1,792)
<u>Total Costs – OSCA</u>	<u>(\$325,729)</u>	<u>(\$392,842)</u>	<u>(\$400,385)</u>
FTE Change – OSCA	2 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>(\$325,729)</u>	<u>(\$392,842)</u>	<u>(\$400,385)</u>
Estimated Net FTE Change on the General Revenue Fund	2 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill creates an additional associate circuit judge position in the 23rd judicial circuit. The Governor will appoint the judge, who will serve until January 1, 2029. The election for this judgeship will be held in 2028

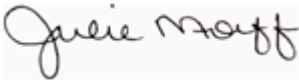
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Governor

Office of the Secretary of State

Office of the State Courts Administrator



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March 4, 2025



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March 4, 2025