

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4184H.01I
Bill No.: HB 2427
Subject: Courts; Judges; Counties
Type: Original
Date: March 3, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal adds a circuit judge and two associate circuit judges in the eleventh judicial circuit.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue	(\$1,035,617)	(\$1,246,374)	(\$1,265,567)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(\$1,035,617)	(\$1,246,374)	(\$1,265,567)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
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 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue	6 FTE	6 FTE	6 FTE
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	6 FTE	6 FTE	6 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 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§478.600 – Adds Circuit Judge and Two Associate Circuit Judges to the Eleventh Judicial Circuit

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** state §478.600 adds an additional circuit judge to the Eleventh Judicial circuit to be elected in 2028. The FY27 salary for circuit judges is projected to be \$182,427 plus E&E of \$2,978.

The addition of a circuit judge includes the addition of a court reporter. The FY26 starting salary for court reporters is \$72,516 plus E &E of \$2,978.

Section 478.600 also adds two associate circuit judges to be elected in 2028. This shall not be included in the statutory formula for authorizing additional judges per county as provided in §478.320. The FY27 salary of an associate circuit judge is projected to be (\$167,833 x 2) \$335,666 plus E&E of (\$2,978 x 2) \$5,956.

OSCA notes the addition of two associate circuit judges in §478.600 includes a senior court clerk for each associate circuit judge. The FY26 starting salary for a senior court clerk is (\$46,057 x 2) \$92,114 plus E & E of (\$2,978 x 2) \$5,956.

Therefore, OSCA states the proposed addition of a circuit judge, court reporter, two associate circuit judges and two senior court clerks will cost approximately \$744,202 and add 6 FTE.

Oversight notes the estimate of the costs of this proposal by OSCA does not include fringe benefits nor inflationary increases for salaries and equipment and expense for the three- year period of the fiscal note. Oversight is providing an estimate of the additional costs.

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 for this agency.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Cost – OSCA (\$478.600)</u>			
Personal service	(\$571,680)	(\$697,143)	(\$708,459)
Fringe benefits	(\$446,930)	(\$543,962)	(\$551,733)
Equipment and expense	(\$17,007)	(\$5,269)	(\$5,375)
Total Costs - OSCA	(\$1,035,617)	(\$1,246,374)	(\$1,265,567)
FTE Change - OSCA	6 FTE	6 FTE	6 FTE
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>(\$1,035,617)</u>	<u>(\$1,246,374)</u>	<u>(\$1,265,567)</u>
Estimated Net FTE Change on General Revenue	6 FTE	6 FTE	6 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill adds a circuit judge to the circuit court in St. Charles County. The additional judge will be elected in 2028 for a two-year term and then in 2030 for a six-year term. The bill also adds two associate circuit judges starting in the 2027 fiscal year. The additional judges will be elected in 2028.

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

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the State Courts Administrator

Office of the Secretary of State



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