

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 6731H.01I
Bill No.: HB 2968
Subject: Judges; Courts; Counties
Type: Original
Date: March 3, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions relating to judgeships in certain judicial circuits.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue	(\$380,041)	(\$458,013)	(\$465,178)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(\$380,041)	(\$458,013)	(\$465,178)

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	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 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator** did not respond to **Oversight’s** request for a statement of fiscal impact for this proposal.

§§478.370-478.750 – Judgeships in Certain Judicial Circuits

In response to similar legislation for the addition of a circuit court judge in a different district, HB 2427 (2026), officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** stated the proposed legislation adds an additional circuit judge to the Eleventh Judicial circuit. 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.

Oversight notes the estimate of the costs of this proposal provided by OSCA does not include fringe benefits or inflationary increases for salaries and equipment and expenses for the three-year period of the fiscal note. Oversight is providing an estimate of the additional costs.

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.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Cost – OSCA (\$478.700)</u>			
Personal service	(\$213,661)	(\$260,608)	(\$264,895)
Fringe benefits	(\$160,711)	(\$195,649)	(\$198,491)
Equipment and expense	(\$5,669)	(\$1,756)	(\$1,792)
Total Costs - OSCA	(\$380,041)	(\$458,013)	(\$465,178)
FTE Change - OSCA	2 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	(\$380,041)	(\$458,013)	(\$465,178)
Estimated Net FTE Change on General Revenue	2 FTE	2 FTE	2 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 amends various statutes related to certain judicial circuits by repealing references to the specific counties of which the individual circuits consist. The bill also adds a circuit judge to the 25th judicial circuit. The judge appointed by the Governor in 2025 will serve until January 1, 2033, and a judge will be elected in 2032 and every six years thereafter.

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 State Courts Administrator



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Director
March 3, 2026



Jessica Harris
Assistant Director
March 3, 2026