

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 6731H.02C
Bill No.: HCS for HB Nos. 2968, 2427 & 3086
Subject: Judges; Courts; Counties
Type: Original
Date: March 18, 2026

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

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue	\$0	(\$1,428,485)	(\$2,311,247)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	(\$1,428,485)	(\$2,311,247)

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	0 FTE	8 FTE	14 FTE
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0 FTE	8 FTE	14 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

§§478.370-487.020 – Judgeships in Certain Judicial Circuits

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** state this proposed legislation modifies provisions relating to certain Judicial Circuits.

Section 478.385 adds one additional circuit judge to the seventh 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 (\$2,117 one-time).

Section 478.385 addition of a circuit judge this includes a court reporter. The FY26 starting salary for court reporters is \$72,516 plus E &E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time).

Oversight notes the provisions of this section state there will be an additional circuit judge beginning in FY28. Oversight assumes the judge will be elected in November 2027 and take the bench 1-1-28. FY28 expenses for the judge and court reporter will be presented for 6 months.

Section 478.550 adds one additional associate circuit judge to the twenty-third Judicial circuit 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 plus E&E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time).

Section 478.550 addition of an associate circuit judge includes a senior court clerk for the associate circuit judge. The FY26 starting salary for a senior court clerk is \$46,057 plus E & E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time).

Oversight notes the Governor is to appoint the judge in 2028. Oversight assumes the judge will be appointed and start 7-1-27. Therefore, FY28 costs for the associate judge and senior court clerk will be reflected for 12 months.

Section 478.600 adds one 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 (\$2,117 one-time).

Section 478.600 addition of a circuit judge this includes a court reporter. The FY26 starting salary for court reporters is \$72,516 plus E &E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time).

Section 478.600 adds two additional associate circuit judges to the eleventh Judicial circuit to be elected in 2028. These shall not be included in the statutory formula for authorizing additional judges per county as provided in section 478.320. The FY27 salary of two associate circuit

judges is projected to be \$335,666 (\$167,833 x 2) plus E&E of \$5,956 (\$2,978 x 2) of that \$4,234 is one-time (\$2,117 x 2 one-time).

Section 478.600 addition of two associate circuit judges includes a senior court clerk for each associate circuit judge. The FY26 starting salary for two senior court clerks is \$92,114 (\$46,057 x 2) plus E&E of \$5,956 (\$2,978 x 2) of that \$4,234 is one-time (\$2,117 x 2 one-time).

Oversight notes the provisions of this section provide for a circuit judge to be elected in 2028. Oversight assumes the judge will be elected in November 2028 and take the bench 1-1-29; therefore, costs for the judge and court reporter will be presented for 6 months beginning in FY29.

Oversight also notes the provisions of this section provide for two (2) additional associate circuit judges to be elected in 2028. Oversight assumes the judges will be elected in November 2028 and take the bench 1-1-29. FY29 expenses for the judges and senior court clerks will be presented for 6 months.

Section 478.630 adds one additional associate circuit judge to Franklin County 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 plus E&E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time; \$861 on-going).

Section 478.630 addition of an associate circuit judge includes a senior court clerk for the associate circuit judge. The FY26 starting salary for a senior court clerk is \$46,057 plus E & E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time; \$861 on-going).

Oversight notes the Governor is to appoint the judge in 2028. Oversight assumes the judge will be appointed and start 7-1-27. Therefore, FY28 costs for the associate judge and senior court clerk will be reflected for 12 months.

Oversight notes §478.700 provides for three (3) circuit judges in the 25th judicial circuit. OSCA's 2027 budget already shows 3 circuit judges for this judicial circuit. This legislation appears to clarify election dates for the existing judges. Oversight assumes no fiscal impact for this section.

Section 478.705 adds one additional associate circuit judge to Miller County to be elected in 2028. This shall not be included in the statutory formula for authorizing additional judges per county as provided in section 478.320. The FY27 salary of an associate circuit judge is projected to be \$167,833 plus E&E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time; \$861 on-going).

Section 478.705 addition of an associate circuit judge includes a senior court clerk for the associate circuit judge. The FY26 starting salary for a senior court clerk is \$46,057 plus E & E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time; \$861 on-going).

Oversight notes the Governor is to appoint the judge in 2028. Oversight assumes the judge will be appointed and start 7-1-27. Therefore, FY28 costs for the associate judge and senior court clerk will be reflected for 12 months.

Section 487.020.2 includes provisions that shall not be construed to allow appointment of a family court commissioner in the seventh judicial circuit in addition to the number of family court commissioners holding office.

The proposed legislation addition two circuit court judges, two court reporters, five associate circuit judges and five senior court clerks are approximately \$1,579,336 plus E & E of \$41,692 (\$29,638 one-time) and 14 FTE.

Oversight assumes costs provided by OSCA are for a full year and notes the estimate of the costs of this proposal provided by OSCA do not include fringe benefits or inflationary increases for salaries and equipment and expenses for the three- year period of the fiscal note. Oversight further notes the judges are not all appointed/elected at the same time and adjusted the fiscal note to reflect the provisions in the proposal and noted by section above.

In response to a previous version, HB 2968 (2026), officials from the **Office of the Governor (GOV)** stated 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 (\$478.385) p.3</u>			
Personal service	\$0	(\$130,304)	(\$264,895)
Fringe benefits	\$0	(\$97,824)	(\$198,491)
Equipment and expense	\$0	(\$5,112)	(\$1,792)
<u>Total Costs - OSCA</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$233,240)</u>	<u>(\$465,178)</u>
FTE Change - OSCA	0 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE
<u>Cost – OSCA (\$478.550) p.3</u>			
Personal service	\$0	(\$174,157)	(\$176,621)
Fringe benefits	\$0	(\$5,990)	(\$1,792)
Equipment and expense	\$0	(\$398,415)	(\$400,195)
<u>Total Costs - OSCA</u>	<u>0 FTE</u>	<u>2 FTE</u>	<u>2 FTE</u>
FTE Change - OSCA			

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
<u>Cost – OSCA (\$478.600) p.3-4</u>			
Personal service	\$0	\$0	(\$354,229)
Fringe benefits	\$0	\$0	(\$275,865)
Equipment and expense	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$15,390)</u>
<u>Total Costs - OSCA</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$645,484)</u>
FTE Change - OSCA	0 FTE	0 FTE	6 FTE
<u>Cost – OSCA (\$478.630) p.4</u>			
Personal service	\$0	(\$218,268)	(\$221,782)
Fringe benefits	\$0	(\$174,157)	(\$176,621)
Equipment and expense	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$5,990)</u>	<u>(\$1,792)</u>
<u>Total Costs - OSCA</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$398,415)</u>	<u>(\$400,195)</u>
FTE Change - OSCA	0 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE
<u>Cost – OSCA (\$478.705) p.4-5</u>			
Personal service	\$0	(\$218,268)	(\$221,782)
Fringe benefits	\$0	(\$174,157)	(\$176,621)
Equipment and expense	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$5,990)</u>	<u>(\$1,792)</u>
<u>Total Costs - OSCA</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$398,415)</u>	<u>(\$400,195)</u>
FTE Change - OSCA	0 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$1,428,485)</u>	<u>(\$2,311,247)</u>
Estimated Net FTE Change on General Revenue	0 FTE	8 FTE	14 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 7th and 11th judicial circuits as well as associate circuit judges to the 11th, 23rd, Franklin and Miller counties.

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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March 18, 2026



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March 18, 2026