

## -Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB310 S1

House of Origin     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
 Second House       In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Hope

**3. Committee:** Courts of Justice

**4. Title:** Maximum number of judges in each judicial district and circuit.

**5. Summary:** This bill increases the maximum number of authorized juvenile and domestic relations district court judges in the Twentieth and Thirty-first Judicial Districts by one (two positions total). The bill also increases the maximum number of authorized circuit court judges in the First, Ninth, and Fifteenth Judicial Circuits by one (three positions total).

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Items 33 and 35

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8 below.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (OES), the FY 2025 (first-year) cost for a new circuit court judgeship is \$329,200. This includes \$313,035 to cover salary and benefit costs for the additional judge, prorated costs of \$1,500 for a clerk, \$11,365 for a substitute judge, and \$3,300 in one-time expenses to equip chambers. The estimated annual cost for every subsequent year is \$325,900.

The FY 2025 (first-year) cost for an additional district court judgeship \$302,991. This includes \$285,096 to cover salary and benefit costs for the additional judge, \$14,595 for a substitute judge, and \$3,300 in one-time expenses to equip chambers. The estimated annual cost for every subsequent year is \$299,691.

The table below shows the total cost associated with the bill.

	# Judges added	Cost per Judgeship YR1	Total Cost FY2025	Cost per Judgeship YR2	Total Cost FY2026
Circuit Court	3	\$329,200	\$987,600	\$325,900	\$977,700
District Court	2	\$302,991	\$605,982	\$299,691	\$599,382
<b>Total Cost</b>			<b>\$1,593,582</b>		<b>\$1,577,082</b>

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Circuit Courts, Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Courts

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None