

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

**1. Bill Number:** HB310 ER

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

**2. Patron:** Hope

**3. Committee:** Passed both Houses

**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, Fifteenth, and Twenty-fifth Judicial Circuits by one (four positions total).

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

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final. 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	4	\$329,200	\$1,316,800	\$325,900	\$1,303,600
District Court	2	\$302,991	\$605,982	\$299,691	\$599,382
<b>Total Cost</b>			<b>\$1,922,782</b>		<b>\$1,902,982</b>

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None