

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB710 H1

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

2. Patron: Deeds

3. Committee: Appropriations

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

5. Summary: This bill increases by one the maximum number of authorized juvenile and domestic relations district court judges in the Twentieth and Thirty-first Judicial Districts (two positions total). The bill also increases by one the maximum number of authorized circuit court judges in the First, Ninth, Fifteenth, and Twenty-fifth Judicial Circuits (four 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 FY 2025	Cost per Judgeship YR2	Total Cost FY 2026
Circuit Court	4	\$329,200	\$1,316,800	\$325,900	\$1,303,600
District Court	2	\$302,991	\$605,982	\$299,691	\$599,382
Total Cost			\$1,922,782		\$1,902,982

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None