

SB 1541 A BUDGET REPORT and MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Conrad

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Action Date: 03/04/24

Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

House Vote

Yeas: 11 - Breese-Iverson, Evans, Gomberg, Helfrich, Holvey, Lewis, McLain, Owens, Pham K, Sanchez, Smith G

Nays: 1 - Mannix

Exc: 1 - Valderrama

Senate Vote

Yeas: 10 - Anderson, Campos, Dembrow, Findley, Frederick, Gelser Blouin, Girod, Knopp, Sollman, Steiner

Nays: 1 - Hansell

Prepared By: Zachary Gehringer, Department of Administrative Services

Reviewed By: John Borden, Legislative Fiscal Office

Judicial Department

2023-25

Budget Summary*

	2023-25	2024	Committee Change from	
	Legislatively Approved Budget ⁽¹⁾	Committee Recommendation	2023-25 Leg. Approved	
			\$ Change	% Change
General Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,911,049	\$ 1,911,049	100.0%
Total	\$ -	\$ 1,911,049	\$ 1,911,049	100.0%

Position Summary

Authorized Positions	0	14	14
Full-time Equivalent (FTE) positions	0.00	6.00	6.00

⁽¹⁾ Includes adjustments through January 2024

* Excludes Capital Construction expenditures

Summary of Revenue Changes

Judicial districts and the number of circuit court judges for each judicial district are established through ORS 3.012. Senate Bill 1541 amends ORS 3.012 and establishes three new circuit court judge positions to the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). For the 2023-25 biennium, the bill appropriates General Fund for two of these positions and associated staff and expenses. OJD is provided \$1.9 million General Fund for two circuit court judges, and support staff for the 2023-25 biennium, while the third position will be effective July 1, 2025, for the 2025-27 biennium. This includes 14 positions (6.00 FTE) for the 2023-25 biennium and \$4.7 million General Fund, 15 positions (15.00 FTE) for the 2025-27 biennium.

Summary of Public Safety Subcommittee Action

Senate Bill 1541 increases the number of statutory circuit court judgeships by one each in Clackamas County, Jackson County, and Washington County. Statewide, the total number of statutory circuit court judgeships under the measure would increase from 179 to 182 positions. The measure takes effect on July 1, 2024, with an operative date for the Jackson and Washington Circuit Court judgeships being July 1, 2024, and the Clackamas Circuit Court judgeship beginning July 1, 2025. The total change is reflected below:

- First Judicial District (Jackson County) - increases the number of judgeships from 10 to 11 (1); effective July 1, 2024.
- Twentieth Judicial District (Washington County) - increases the number of judgeships from 15 to 16 (1); effective July 1, 2024.
- Fifth Judicial District (Clackamas County) - increases the number of judgeships from 11 to 12 (1); effective July 1, 2025.

Judicial Compensation

The Subcommittee approved a \$579,865 General Fund appropriation and the establishment of two permanent full-time (1.00 FTE) circuit court judges, one each in Jackson and Washington counties in the 2023-25 biennium. The Subcommittee also approved the establishment of an additional circuit court judge for Clackamas county beginning July 1, 2025. The Chief Justice identifies these three counties are significantly under resourced compared to the needed judicial capacity, as identified in OJD's judicial workload study. The new judges in Jackson and Washington counties would assume the duties of the office on July 1, 2024.

Judicial salaries are set in statute. Since 2015, state law has required judicial salaries be adjusted on an ongoing basis to match the cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) awarded to management service employees in the executive branch. Amounts beyond the cost-of-living adjustments require legislative action. If the measure becomes law, the anticipated 2023-25 biennium costs will increase by 6.55% for the second COLA to be effective either January or February 2025.

Trial Courts

The Subcommittee approved a General Fund appropriation of \$1.3 million and the establishment of 12 permanent full-time support staff (5.00 FTE) associated with adding three circuit court judges and the associated Services and Supplies costs. Eight of these positions established for support staff in Jackson and Washington counties begin on May 1, 2024, in advance of the judicial appointment. Four additional support staff positions established in Clackamas county begin on May 1, 2025, in advance of the judicial appointment.

DETAIL OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS ACTION

Judicial Department
 Zachary Gehringer – 971-209-9217

DESCRIPTION	GENERAL FUND	LOTTERY FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS		FEDERAL FUNDS		TOTAL ALL FUNDS	POS	FTE
			LIMITED	NONLIMITED	LIMITED	NONLIMITED			
<u>SUBCOMMITTEE ADJUSTMENTS</u>									
SCR 010 - Judicial Compensation									
Personal Services	\$ 579,865	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 579,865	2	1.00
SCR 100 -Trial Courts									
Personal Services	\$ 1,061,739	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,061,739	12	5.00
Services and Supplies	\$ 269,445	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 269,445		
SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION *	\$ 1,911,049	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,911,049	14	6.00
% Change from 2023-25 Leg Approved Budget	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Excludes Capital Construction Expenditures