

**JBC STAFF FISCAL ANALYSIS
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

CONCERNING AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DISTRICT COURT JUDGES IN CERTAIN JUDICIAL DISTRICTS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Prime Sponsors: Sens. Lee and Gardner
Reps. Herod and Carver

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Fiscal Impact of Bill as Amended to Date

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 02/14/19.

	No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill
	Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>new information or technical issues</i>
XXX	Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>amendment adopted</i> after LCS Fiscal Note was prepared
	Non-Concurrence: JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff disagree about the fiscal impact of the bill

The House Judiciary Committee Report (02/19/19) requires the Judicial Department to add an employee who will be responsible for education and outreach regarding judicial office vacancies. This increases the appropriation to the Judicial Department by \$125,515 General Fund and 0.9 FTE. The Committee Report also makes other changes that Legislative Council Staff and JBC Staff agree do not change the fiscal impact of the bill.

Amendments in This Packet for Consideration by Appropriations Committee

Amendment	Description
J.002	Staff-prepared appropriation amendment
L.005/J.003	Bill Sponsor amendment - changes fiscal impact <i>and</i> appropriation

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill includes an appropriation clause that must be adjusted to reflect the changes in the House Judiciary Committee Report described above. The appropriation must also be adjusted to reflect revised assumptions in the 02/14/19 Revised Fiscal Note.

Description of Amendments in This Packet

J.002 Staff has prepared amendment **J.002** (attached) to make the required adjustments. As amended by J.002, the total FY 2019-20 appropriation in the bill equals \$9,435,380 General Fund and the FTE assumption equals 74.4.

L.005 Bill Sponsor amendment **L.005** (attached) delays until January 1, 2020, the start date for eight of the fifteen judges added by the bill. The following table details the revised judge start dates by judicial district. The staggered start dates also delay until January 1, 2020, the start date for some of the support staff in the Judicial Department and some of the staff in the Office of the State Public Defender.

Judicial District	Number of new judgeships starting July 1, 2019	Number of new judgeships starting January 1, 2020
1st	0	1
2nd	2	2
4th	1	1
8th	0	1
10th	1	0
13th	1	0
17th	0	1
18th	0	1
19th	1	1
21st	1	0
Total	7	8

JBC staff has prepared amendment **J.003** (attached) to adjust the bill's appropriation for the staggered start dates. This appropriation also takes account of the House Judiciary Committee's education and outreach position and changes in the 02/14/19 Revised Fiscal Note. As amended by L.005 and J.003, the total FY 2019-20 appropriation in the bill equals \$7,417,731 General Fund and the FTE assumption equals 53.7.

The Committee should adopt either J.002 or J.003 but not both. If L.005 is adopted, J.003 should be adopted. If L.005 is not adopted, J.002 should be adopted.

Points to Consider

General Fund Impact

The general appropriations bill for FY 2019-20 has not yet been introduced. This bill, as amended to date, requires a General Fund appropriation of \$9,435,380 for FY 2019-20 and \$8,215,085 in FY 2020-21, reducing the amount of General Fund available for other existing programs. If sponsor amendment L.005 and J.003 are adopted, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$7,417,731 and 53.7 FTE in FY 2019-20 and \$8,322,314 and 80.9 FTE in FY 2020-21.