

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 25-0445.02 Chelsea Princell x4335

SENATE BILL 25-024

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Roberts and Frizell,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Carter and Soper,

Senate Committees

Judiciary
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING JUDICIAL OFFICERS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
102 **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Beginning July 1, 2025, the bill increases by one the number of district court judges in the eighth, thirteenth, nineteenth, and twenty-third judicial districts; increases by 2 the number of district court judges in the fourth, seventeenth, and eighteenth judicial districts; and increases by one the number of county court judges in Douglas county, La Plata county, Larimer county, Mesa county, Weld county, Eagle county, Adams county,

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
February 25, 2025

and Arapahoe county.

Beginning July 1, 2026, the bill increases by one the number of district court judges in the second, seventh, seventeenth, eighteenth, and twentieth judicial districts and the Denver probate court; increases by 2 the number of district court judges in the fourth judicial district; and increases by 3 the number of judges serving on the court of appeals.

Current law requires district court judges regularly assigned to Arapahoe county to maintain offices within Arapahoe county. The bill allows the district court judges assigned to Arapahoe county to maintain offices outside of the county seat.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2

3 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-5-105, **add** (2)(i)
4 and (2)(j) as follows:

5 **13-5-105. Fourth district.** (2) (i) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE
6 APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025, THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR
7 THE FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT IS TWENTY-FIVE.

8 (j) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
9 2026, THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR THE FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT IS
10 TWENTY-SIX.

11 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-5-108, **amend**
12 (2)(c); and **add** (2)(d) as follows:

13 **13-5-108. Seventh district.** (2) (c) ~~Notwithstanding the~~
14 ~~provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2),~~ Subject to available
15 appropriations, effective July 1, 2011, the number of judges for the
16 seventh judicial district ~~shall be~~ IS five.

17 (d) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
18 2027, THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT IS SIX.

19

20 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-5-114, **add** (2)(c)

1 as follows:

2 **13-5-114. Thirteenth district.** (2) (c) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE
3 APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026, THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR
4 THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT IS SIX.

5 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-5-118, **add** (2)(h)
6 and (2)(i) as follows:

7 **13-5-118. Seventeenth district.** (2) (h) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE
8 APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025, THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR
9 THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT IS SEVENTEEN.

10 (i) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
11 2027, THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
12 IS EIGHTEEN.

13 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-5-119, **amend**
14 (2)(e); and **add** (2)(d)(VIII) and (2)(d)(IX) as follows:

15 **13-5-119. Eighteenth district.** (2) (d) (VIII) SUBJECT TO
16 AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025, THE NUMBER OF
17 JUDGES FOR THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT IS EIGHTEEN.

18 (IX) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
19 2027, THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT IS
20 TWENTY.

21 (e) The district judges regularly assigned to Arapahoe county ~~shall~~
22 ~~maintain their offices in one location within Arapahoe county~~ MAY
23 MAINTAIN OFFICES OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY SEAT.

24 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-5-120, **add** (2)(i)
25 as follows:

26 **13-5-120. Nineteenth district.** (2) (i) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE
27 APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026, THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR

1 THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT IS TWELVE.

2 ==

3 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-5-123.1, **add** (3)
4 as follows:

5 **13-5-123.1. Twenty-third district.** (3) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE
6 APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025, THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR
7 THE TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT IS NINE.

8 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact,**
9 **with amendments,** 13-6-202 as follows:

10 **13-6-202. Number of judges.** (1) THERE IS ONE COUNTY JUDGE
11 IN EACH COUNTY, EXCEPT THAT:

12 (a) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE NUMBER OF
13 COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON IS NINE;

14 (b) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE NUMBER OF
15 COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF EL PASO IS TEN;

16 (c) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE NUMBER OF
17 COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF ADAMS IS EIGHT; ==

18 ==

19 (d) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE NUMBER OF
20 COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF ARAPAHOE IS EIGHT; ==

21 ==

22 (e) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE NUMBER OF
23 COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF BOULDER IS FIVE;

24 (f) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE NUMBER OF
25 COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF PUEBLO IS THREE;

26 (g) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE NUMBER OF
27 COUNTY JUDGES IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER IS THE NUMBER OF

1 COUNTY JUDGES PROVIDED BY THE CHARTER AND ORDINANCES THEREOF;

2 (h) (I) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE NUMBER OF
3 COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF LARIMER IS FIVE; AND

4 (II) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
5 2026, THE NUMBER OF COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF LARIMER IS SIX;

6 (i) (I) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE NUMBER OF
7 COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS IS THREE; AND

8 (II) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
9 2026, THE NUMBER OF COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS IS
10 FOUR;

11 (j) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
12 2025, THE NUMBER OF COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF LA PLATA IS
13 TWO;

14 (k) (I) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE NUMBER OF
15 COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF MESA IS THREE; AND

16 (II) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
17 2026, THE NUMBER OF COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF MESA IS FOUR;

18 (l) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE NUMBER OF
19 COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF WELD IS FOUR; AND

20 ==
21 (m) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
22 2026, THE NUMBER OF COUNTY JUDGES IN THE COUNTY OF EAGLE IS TWO.

23 (2) (a) ONE OF THE COUNTY JUDGES IN BOULDER COUNTY SHALL
24 MAINTAIN A COURTROOM IN THE CITY OF LONGMONT AT LEAST THREE
25 DAYS PER WEEK.

26 (b) A JUDGE OF THE EAGLE COUNTY COURT SHALL CONDUCT
27 COURT BUSINESS IN THAT PORTION OF EAGLE COUNTY LYING IN THE

1 ROARING FORK RIVER DRAINAGE AREA IN A MANNER SUFFICIENT TO DEAL
2 WITH THE BUSINESS BEFORE THE COURT.

3
4 SECTION 9. Appropriation. (1) For the 2025-26 state fiscal
5 year, \$2,638,326 is appropriated to the judicial department for use by the
6 state courts. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement
7 this act, the state courts may use this appropriation as follows:

8 (a) \$2,120,626 for use by trial courts for trial court programs,
9 which amount is based on an assumption that the trial courts will require
10 an additional 17.5 FTE;

11 (b) \$115,500 for capital outlay; and

12 (c) \$402,200 for courthouse furnishings and infrastructure
13 maintenance.

14 (2) For the 2025-26 state fiscal year, \$621,337 is appropriated to
15 the judicial department for use by the office of state public defender. This
16 appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the office
17 may use this appropriation as follows:

18 (a) \$557,311 for personal services, which amount is based on an
19 assumption that the office will require an additional 6.7 FTE;

20 (b) \$8,576 for operating expenses;

21 (c) \$46,690 for capital outlay;

22 (d) \$760 for attorney registration; and

23 (e) \$8,000 for training.

24 SECTION 10. Safety clause. The general assembly finds,
25 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for

- 1 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
- 2 institutions.