

JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis

Senate Appropriations Committee

Concerning judicial officers.

Prime Sponsors:

Senator Roberts; Frizell
(None)

Date Prepared:

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Fiscal Impacts

Appropriation Required, Amendments in Packet
General Fund Impact
Significant Appropriation Increase in Second Year

Fiscal Note Status

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 01/27/25.

No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill.

Amendments in This Packet

- J.001 Staff-prepared appropriation amendment
- L.001/J.002 Bill Sponsor amendment - changes fiscal impact and appropriation

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill requires but does not contain an appropriation clause.

Description of Amendments in This Packet

J.001

Staff amendment **J.001** (attached) appropriates a total of \$18,694,465 General Fund to the Judicial Department for FY 2025-26, including \$12,884,521 for the State Courts, \$5,301,415 for the Office of State Public Defender, and \$508,529 for the Statewide Behavioral Health Court Liaison (Bridges of Colorado). The appropriation reflects 113.0 FTE.

L.001 and J.002

Bill Sponsor amendment **L.001** (attached) reduces the total number of judges to 22 and extends the addition of judges over three years as outlined in the following table.

Additional Judges and Docket Types							
Court	Current/ New Judge Total	Judges Starting 2025	Judges Starting 2026	Judges Starting 2027	Total Add'l Judges	Docket Type	Dockets Impacting Other Agencies
2nd Dist	27 / 28	0	0	1	1	All cases	1
4th Dist	24 / 27	1	1	1	3	All cases but criminal	3
7th Dist	5 / 6	0	0	1	1	All cases	1
8th Dist	9 / 10	0	0	1	1	All cases but criminal	1
13th Dist	5 / 6	0	1	0	1	All cases	1
17th Dist	16 / 18	1	0	1	2	1 civil, 1 criminal,	1
18th Dist	17 / 20	1	0	2	3	1 civil, 2 domestic	0
19th Dist	11 / 12	0	1	0	1	All cases	1
23rd Dist	8 / 9	1	0	0	1	Criminal cases	1
Adams Co	8 / 9	0	1	0	1	Criminal cases	1
Arapahoe Co	8 / 9	0	1	0	1	Criminal cases	1
Larimer Co	5 / 6	0	1	0	1	Civil and Domestic	0
Douglas Co	3 / 4	0	1	0	1	Criminal cases	1
La Plata Co	1 / 2	1	0	0	1	All cases	1
Mesa Co	3 / 4	0	1	0	1	All cases	1
Weld Co	4 / 5	0	0	1	1	All cases	1
Eagle Co	1 / 2	0	1	0	1	All cases	1
Total	187 / 209	5	9	8	22		17

JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff agree that the amendment requires expenditures outlined in the following table.

Agency	State Expenditures			FTE		
	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28
State Courts	\$3,168,698	\$7,887,452	\$11,870,854	18.4	50.0	81.0
State Public Defender	475,405	4,062,529	5,912,122	5.1	36.6	54.9
Bridges of Colorado	79,718	474,530	723,904	0.7	3.7	5.7
Total	\$3,723,821	\$12,424,511	\$18,506,880	24.2	90.3	141.6

Bill sponsor amendment **J.002** (attached) appropriates a total of \$3,723,821 General Fund to the Judicial Department for FY 2025-26, including \$3,168,698 for the State Courts, \$475,405 for the Office of State Public Defender, and \$79,718 for the Statewide Behavioral Health Court Liaison (Bridges of Colorado). The appropriation reflects 24.2 FTE.

If the Committee adopts **L.001** and **J.002**, it should not adopt **J.001**.

Points to Consider

General Fund Impact

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) is developing a budget package for FY 2025-26. This bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$18,694,465 for FY 2025-26, reducing the General Fund available for other FY 2025-26 appropriations by this amount. The bill requires General Fund appropriations of \$26,141,484 in FY 2026-27 and future years.

If sponsor amendments **L.001** and **J.002** are adopted, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$3,723,821 for FY 2025-26, reducing the General Fund available for other FY 2025-26 appropriations by this amount. The bill requires General Fund appropriations of \$12,424,511 in FY 2026-27 and \$18,506,880 in FY 2027-28 and future years.