

Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 6222 SB	Title: District court judges
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Estimated Cash Receipts

NONE

Agency Name	2023-25		2025-27		2027-29	
	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total
Local Gov. Courts	Fiscal note not available					
Loc School dist-SPI						
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact					
Local Gov. Total						

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25				2025-27				2027-29			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Administrative Office of the Courts	Fiscal note not available											
Total \$	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts	Fiscal note not available								
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Administrative Office of the Courts	Fiscal note not available								
Total \$	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts	Fiscal note not available								
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

NONE

Prepared by: Gaius Horton, OFM	Phone: (360) 819-3112	Date Published: Preliminary 2/26/2024
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number: 6222 SB	Title: District court judges
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Part I: Jurisdiction-Location, type or status of political subdivision defines range of fiscal impacts.

Legislation Impacts:

- ☐ Cities:
- ☐ Counties:
- ☐ Special Districts:
- ☐ Specific jurisdictions only:
- ☐ Variance occurs due to:

Part II: Estimates

- ☒ No fiscal impacts.
- ☐ Expenditures represent one-time costs:
- ☒ Legislation provides local option: A county legislative authority would have the local option to authorize an increase in the number of district court judges in the county after receiving a recommendation from the Washington Supreme Court.
- ☐ Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time:

Estimated revenue impacts to:

None

Estimated expenditure impacts to:

None

Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Kate Fernald	Phone: 564-200-3519	Date: 02/26/2024
Leg. Committee Contact: Yelena Baker	Phone: 360-786-7301	Date: 02/18/2024
Agency Approval: Alice Zillah	Phone: 360-725-5035	Date: 02/26/2024
OFM Review: Gaius Horton	Phone: (360) 819-3112	Date: 02/26/2024

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

Description of the bill with an emphasis on how it impacts local government.

Sec. 1 would add the word “minimum” to RCW 3.34.010. The RCW’s stated number of district court judges in each county would become the minimum number, rather than the exact number, of district court judges in each county.

Sec. 2 would amend RCW 3.34.020. The state Legislature’s role in changing the number of district court judges would be removed. Instead, county legislative authorities would have the option to authorize an increase in the number of district court judges in the county after receiving a recommendation from the Washington Supreme Court.

B. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IMPACTS

Expenditure impacts of the legislation on local governments with the expenditure provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of expenditures. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

The bill would not impact local government expenditures because no action is required. SB 6222 would authorize a county legislative authority, rather than the state Legislature, to increase the number of district court judges in the county if the county legislative authority chose to do so after receiving a recommendation from the Washington Supreme Court.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) analyzes court fiscal impacts. Please see AOC's fiscal note.

ILLUSTRATIVE COUNTY COSTS:

If a county elected to increase its number of district court judges, the county would remain responsible for paying for the district court judge's salary and benefits. According to the Washington State District and Municipal Court Judges' Association, (DMCJA) the base salary for a district court judge is currently \$206,988 (not including benefits). DMCJA also reports that a new judge position would likely require additional support staff of at least one courtroom clerk. However, the Association of Washington Courts' fiscal note will analyze court impacts. These costs are offered here strictly for illustrative purposes to provide a sense of a county's expenditure impact if a county decided to increase its number of district court judges.

C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE IMPACTS

Revenue impacts of the legislation on local governments, with the revenue provisions identified by section number, and when appropriate, the detail of revenue sources. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

The legislation would not impact local governments' revenue.

SOURCES:

Washington State Association of Counties

Washington State District and Municipal Court Judges' Association