

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						
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	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.											
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	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
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	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
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	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

Prepared by: Gaius Horton, OFM	Phone: (360) 819-3112	Date Published: Final 2/28/2024
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Judicial Impact Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 6222 SB	Title: District court judges	Agency: 055-Administrative Office of the Courts
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Part I: Estimates

☐ No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Expenditures from:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The revenue and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Responsibility for expenditures may be subject to the provisions of RCW 43.135.060.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- ☐ If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note for Parts I-V.
- ☒ If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- ☐ Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

Legislative Contact: Yelena Baker	Phone: 360-786-7301	Date: 02/18/2024
Agency Preparation: Angie Wirkkala	Phone: 360-704-5528	Date: 02/28/2024
Agency Approval: Chris Stanley	Phone: 360-357-2406	Date: 02/28/2024
OFM Review: Gaius Horton	Phone: (360) 819-3112	Date: 02/28/2024

195,418.00

Request # 235-1

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact on the Courts

The bill would amend Chapter 3.34 RCW establishing a minimum number of elected district court judges for each county. It would allow the county legislative authority to increase the number of judges on recommendation from the Supreme Court.

II. B - Cash Receipts Impact

None

II. C - Expenditures

Any increase in judicial officers would have a minimal fiscal impact to the Administrative Office of the Courts as new judges require onboarding and are provided support, like judicial education.

Counties would have the bulk of an indeterminate fiscal impact. All district court judge salaries and benefits are paid by the county. Additionally, there may be a fiscal impact related to equipment and other resources, should the number of judges in their court be increased. However, the bill is permissive, giving the local legislative authority the ability to increase the number of judges without authority of the Legislature.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Expenditure By Object or Purpose (State)

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

III. B - Expenditure By Object or Purpose (County)

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

III. C - Expenditure By Object or Purpose (City)

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

III. D - FTE Detail

NONE

III. E - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B1 - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose (State)

NONE

IV. B2 - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose (County)

NONE

IV. B3 - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose (City)

NONE

195,418.00

Form FN (Rev 1/00)

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

None

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