

House File 2769

H-8449

1 Amend House File 2769 as follows:

2 1. By striking everything after the enacting clause and
3 inserting:

4 <Section 1. JUDICIAL BRANCH.

5 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of the state
6 to the judicial branch for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
7 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, the following amounts, or so
8 much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purposes
9 designated:

10 a. For salaries of supreme court justices, appellate court
11 judges, district court judges, district associate judges,
12 associate juvenile judges, associate probate judges, judicial
13 magistrates and staff, state court administrator, clerk of
14 the supreme court, district court administrators, clerks of
15 the district court, juvenile court officers, board of law
16 examiners, board of examiners of shorthand reporters, and
17 commission on judicial qualifications; receipt and disbursement
18 of child support payments; reimbursement of the auditor
19 of state for expenses incurred in completing audits of the
20 offices of the clerks of the district court during the fiscal
21 year beginning July 1, 2026; and maintenance, equipment, and
22 miscellaneous purposes:

23 \$202,691,378

24 b. For deposit in the revolving fund created pursuant to
25 section 602.1302, subsection 3, for jury and witness fees,
26 mileage, costs related to summoning jurors, costs and fees for
27 interpreters and translators, and reimbursement of attorney
28 fees paid by the state public defender:

29 \$ 3,600,000

30 c. For payment of expenses for court-ordered services
31 provided to juveniles who are under the supervision of juvenile
32 court services, which expenses are a charge upon the state
33 pursuant to [section 232.141, subsection 4](#):

34 \$ 3,290,000

35 (1) Of the moneys appropriated in this lettered paragraph,

1 no more than \$1,556,000 is allocated to provide school-based
2 supervision of children under [chapter 232](#), of which no more
3 than \$25,000 may be used for purposes of training.

4 (2) Notwithstanding [section 232.141](#) or any other provision
5 of law to the contrary, the moneys appropriated in this
6 lettered paragraph shall be distributed to the judicial
7 districts as determined by the state court administrator. The
8 state court administrator shall make the determination of the
9 distribution amounts within thirty days of the date on which
10 the annual census data is released.

11 (3) Notwithstanding [chapter 232](#) or any other provision of
12 law to the contrary, a district or juvenile court shall not
13 order any service which is a charge upon the state pursuant
14 to [section 232.141](#) if there are insufficient court-ordered
15 services moneys available in the district court distribution
16 amounts to pay for the service. The chief juvenile court
17 officer shall encourage use of the moneys appropriated in this
18 lettered paragraph such that there are sufficient moneys to pay
19 for all court-ordered services during the entire fiscal year.
20 The chief juvenile court officer shall attempt to anticipate
21 potential surpluses and shortfalls in the distribution amounts
22 and shall cooperatively request the state court administrator
23 to transfer moneys between the judicial districts' distribution
24 amounts as prudent.

25 (4) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
26 a district or juvenile court shall not order a county to pay
27 for any service provided to a juvenile pursuant to an order
28 entered under [chapter 232](#) which is a charge upon the state
29 under [section 232.141, subsection 4](#).

30 (5) Of the moneys appropriated in this lettered paragraph,
31 no more than \$83,000 may be used by the judicial branch
32 for administration of the requirements under this lettered
33 paragraph.

34 (6) Of the moneys appropriated in this lettered paragraph,
35 an amount not to exceed the actual cost of the annual

1 membership fee is allocated to the judicial branch to support
2 the interstate commission for juveniles in accordance with
3 the interstate compact for juveniles as provided in section
4 232.173.

5 (7) Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#), moneys appropriated in
6 this lettered paragraph that remain unencumbered or unobligated
7 at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall
8 remain available for expenditure for the purposes designated
9 until the close of the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2029.

10 d. For juvenile delinquent graduated sanctions services
11 pursuant to [section 232.192](#):

12 \$ 12,253,000

13 (1) Any state moneys saved as a result of efforts by
14 juvenile court services to earn a federal fund match pursuant
15 to Tit. IV-E of the federal Family First Prevention Services
16 Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-123, for juvenile court services
17 administration is appropriated to the judicial branch for
18 purposes of this lettered paragraph.

19 (2) Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#), moneys appropriated in
20 this lettered paragraph that remain unencumbered or unobligated
21 at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall
22 remain available for expenditure for the purposes designated
23 until the close of the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2029.

24 e. For salaries of business court judges and the
25 establishment and operation of a specialty business court
26 pursuant to 2026 Iowa Acts, Senate File 639, if enacted:

27 \$ 500,000

28 2. The judicial branch, except for purposes of internal
29 processing, shall use the current state budget system, the
30 state payroll system, and the Iowa finance and accounting
31 system in administration of programs and payments for services,
32 and shall not duplicate the state payroll, accounting, and
33 budgeting systems.

34 3. The judicial branch shall submit monthly financial
35 statements to the legislative services agency and the

1 department of management containing all appropriated accounts
2 in the same manner as provided in the monthly financial status
3 reports and personal services usage reports of the department
4 of administrative services. The monthly financial statements
5 must include a comparison of the dollars and percentage
6 spent of budgeted versus actual revenues and expenditures on
7 a cumulative basis for full-time equivalent positions and
8 dollars.

9 4. The judicial branch shall focus efforts upon the
10 collection of delinquent fines, penalties, court costs, fees,
11 surcharges, or similar amounts.

12 5. It is the intent of the general assembly that the offices
13 of the clerks of the district court operate in all 99 counties
14 and be accessible to the public as much as is reasonably
15 possible in order to address the relative needs of the citizens
16 of each county. An office of the clerk of the district court
17 shall be open regular courthouse hours.

18 6. In addition to the requirements for transfers under
19 section 8.39, the judicial branch shall not change the
20 appropriations from the amounts appropriated to the judicial
21 branch in this Act unless notice of the revisions is given to
22 the legislative services agency prior to the effective date.
23 The notice must include information on the judicial branch's
24 rationale for making the changes and details concerning the
25 workload and performance measures upon which the changes are
26 based.

27 7. The judicial branch shall submit a semiannual update to
28 the legislative services agency and department of management
29 specifying the amounts of fines, surcharges, and court costs
30 collected using the Iowa court information system since the
31 last report. The judicial branch shall continue to facilitate
32 the sharing of vital sentencing and other information with
33 other state departments and governmental agencies involved in
34 the criminal justice system through the Iowa court information
35 system.

1 8. The judicial branch shall provide a report to the general
2 assembly and department of management by January 1, 2027,
3 concerning the amounts received and expended from the court
4 technology and modernization fund created in section 602.8108,
5 subsection 7, during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025,
6 and ending June 30, 2026, and the plans for expenditures from
7 the fund during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and
8 ending June 30, 2027.

9 Sec. 2. CIVIL TRIALS — LOCATION. Notwithstanding any
10 provision to the contrary, for the fiscal year beginning July
11 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, if all parties in a case
12 agree, a civil trial including a jury trial may take place in a
13 county contiguous to the county with proper jurisdiction, even
14 if the contiguous county is located in an adjacent judicial
15 district or judicial election district. If the trial is moved
16 pursuant to this section, court personnel shall treat the case
17 as if a change of venue occurred.

18 Sec. 3. TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT. Notwithstanding section
19 602.1509, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and
20 ending June 30, 2027, a judicial officer may waive travel
21 reimbursement for any travel outside the judicial officer's
22 county of residence to conduct official judicial business.

23 Sec. 4. JUDICIAL OFFICER — UNPAID LEAVE. Notwithstanding
24 the annual salary rates for judicial officers established by
25 2025 Iowa Acts, chapter 158, section 6, for the fiscal year
26 beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, the supreme
27 court may by order place all judicial officers on unpaid leave
28 status on any day employees of the judicial branch are placed
29 on temporary layoff status. The biweekly pay of the judicial
30 officers shall be reduced accordingly for the pay period in
31 which the unpaid leave date occurred in the same manner as
32 for noncontract employees of the judicial branch. Through
33 the course of the fiscal year, the judicial branch may use an
34 amount equal to the aggregate amount of salary reductions due
35 to the judicial officer unpaid leave days for any purpose other

1 than for judicial salaries.

2 Sec. 5. IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. It is the intent
3 of the general assembly that the judicial branch utilize
4 the Iowa communications network or other secure electronic
5 communications in lieu of traveling for the fiscal year
6 beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.

7 Sec. 6. Section 602.1202, Code 2026, is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 **602.1202 Judicial council.**

10 1. A judicial council is established, consisting of the
11 chief judges of the judicial districts, the chief judge of
12 the court of appeals, and the chief justice who shall be the
13 chairperson. The council shall convene not less than twice
14 each year at times and places as ordered by the chief justice.
15 The council shall advise the supreme court with respect to the
16 supervision and administration of the judicial branch.

17 2. A meeting of the judicial council in which the judicial
18 retirement system is discussed shall not be held as a closed
19 session under section 21.5.

20 Sec. 7. Section 602.9102, Code 2026, is amended to read as
21 follows:

22 **602.9102 Administered by court administrator.**

23 1. The court administrator ~~shall be vested with authority is~~
24 authorized to administer the system and related reports and may
25 promulgate rules therefor not inconsistent with ~~the provisions~~
26 ~~of~~ this article.

27 2. The state court administrator shall advise the
28 judicial council on all determinations made by the state court
29 administrator concerning the judicial retirement system.>

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