



Fiscal Note

Fiscal Services Division



[HF 2645](#) – Electronic Court Notifications, Criminal Case Actions (LSB6888HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[House File 2645](#) requires the State Court Administrator to establish an opt-out electronic notification system by July 1, 2027, that may be operated by the Judicial Branch or through a contract with a qualified third-party entity. The system is used to provide text-based notifications to individuals involved in pending and future criminal case actions. The system must perform the following functions:

- Deliver notifications regarding public case proceedings and events.
- Provide appearance reminders with date, time, and location.
- Notify individuals of fees due and methods of payment.
- Provide a clear opt-out option.
- Protect nonpublic and sealed information.
- Limit participation to enrolled individuals.

Background

The Iowa Judicial Branch provides electronic access to case information through Iowa Courts Online and the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS). The EDMS has an integrated email-based notification system. The Judicial Branch currently has a text-based system available for those who opt in for jury service-related notifications but no automated text-based notification for criminal proceedings.

Assumptions

- Implementation of a statewide, opt-out notification system requires an expansion of existing electronic services and requires integration with case management infrastructure.
- Enrollment is automatic with opt-out, meaning high participation rates are anticipated.
- Each case may generate multiple notifications, such as the initial appearance, hearings, continuances, and fee reminders.
- Enhanced security controls will be required to prevent disclosure of confidential information.

Fiscal Impact

House File 2645 is expected to increase expenditures for the Judicial Branch. The Judicial Branch estimates a two-year to three-year implementation timeline that includes one-time costs for internal system development and execution between \$1.0 million and \$1.5 million. Once implemented, the estimated annual cost for ongoing maintenance of the system is anticipated to be \$100,000 per year.

Source
Judicial Branch

/s/ Jennifer Acton

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The Fiscal Note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
