

# Senate Study Bill 1227

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED GOVERNOR'S  
BUDGET BILL)

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to and making appropriations to the judicial  
2 branch.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
4 TLSB 1015XG 83  
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1 1 Section 1. JUDICIAL BRANCH.  
1 2 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of the  
1 3 state to the judicial branch for the fiscal year beginning  
1 4 July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2010, the following amount,  
1 5 or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the  
1 6 purposes designated:  
1 7 For salaries of supreme court justices, appellate court  
1 8 judges, district court judges, district associate judges,  
1 9 associate juvenile judges, associate probate judges, including  
1 10 the state's required contribution to the judicial retirement  
1 11 fund; salaries of judicial magistrates and staff, state court  
1 12 administrators, clerks of the supreme court, district court  
1 13 administrators, clerks of the district court, juvenile court  
1 14 officers, board of law examiners and board of examiners of  
1 15 shorthand reporters and judicial qualifications commission;  
1 16 receipt and disbursement of child support payments;  
1 17 reimbursement of the auditor of state for expenses incurred in  
1 18 completing audits of the offices of the clerks of the district  
1 19 court during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009; and  
1 20 maintenance, equipment, and miscellaneous purposes:  
1 21 ..... \$163,527,936  
1 22 2. The judicial branch, except for purposes of internal  
1 23 processing, shall use the current state budget system, the  
1 24 state payroll system, and the Iowa finance and accounting  
1 25 system in administration of programs and payments for  
1 26 services, and shall not duplicate the state payroll,  
1 27 accounting, and budgeting systems.  
1 28 3. The judicial branch shall submit monthly financial  
1 29 statements to the legislative services agency and the  
1 30 department of management containing all appropriated accounts  
1 31 in the same manner as provided in the monthly financial status  
1 32 reports and personal services usage reports of the department  
1 33 of administrative services. The monthly financial statements  
1 34 shall include a comparison of the dollars and percentage spent  
1 35 of budgeted versus actual revenues and expenditures on a  
2 1 cumulative basis for full-time equivalent positions and  
2 2 dollars.  
2 3 4. The judicial branch shall focus efforts upon the  
2 4 collection of delinquent fines, penalties, court costs, fees,  
2 5 surcharges, or similar amounts.  
2 6 5. It is the intent of the general assembly that the  
2 7 offices of the clerks of the district court operate in all 99  
2 8 counties and be accessible to the public as much as is  
2 9 reasonably possible in order to address the relative needs of  
2 10 the citizens of each county.  
2 11 6. The judicial branch shall continue studying the best  
2 12 practices and efficiencies of each judicial district. In  
2 13 identifying the most efficient judicial districts and the  
2 14 districts using best practices, the judicial branch shall  
2 15 consider the average cost to the judicial branch for  
2 16 processing each classification of criminal offense or civil  
2 17 action and the overall number of cases filed. In addition,  
2 18 and as part of the best practices and efficiencies study, the  
2 19 judicial branch shall study the number of judicial officers

2 20 needed throughout the state to manage current caseloads and  
2 21 anticipated caseloads in the future, and shall make  
2 22 recommendations, if any, as to changes in judgeship and  
2 23 magistrate apportionment formulas in sections 602.6201,  
2 24 602.6301, and 602.6401. The judicial branch shall file a  
2 25 report regarding the study made, recommendations presented,  
2 26 and actions taken pursuant to this subsection with the  
2 27 co-chairpersons and ranking members of the joint  
2 28 appropriations subcommittee on the justice system and to the  
2 29 legislative services agency by January 1, 2010.

2 30 7. In addition to the requirements for transfers under  
2 31 section 8.39, the judicial branch shall not change the  
2 32 appropriations from the amounts appropriated to the judicial  
2 33 branch in this Act, unless notice of the revisions is given  
2 34 prior to their effective date to the legislative services  
2 35 agency. The notice shall include information on the branch's  
3 1 rationale for making the changes and details concerning the  
3 2 workload and performance measures upon which the changes are  
3 3 based.

3 4 8. The judicial branch shall submit a semiannual update to  
3 5 the legislative services agency specifying the amounts of  
3 6 fines, surcharges, and court costs collected using the Iowa  
3 7 court information system since the last report. The judicial  
3 8 branch shall continue to facilitate the sharing of vital  
3 9 sentencing and other information with other state departments  
3 10 and governmental agencies involved in the criminal justice  
3 11 system through the Iowa court information system.

3 12 9. The judicial branch shall provide a report to the  
3 13 general assembly by January 1, 2010, concerning the amounts  
3 14 received and expended from the enhanced court collections fund  
3 15 created in section 602.1304 and the court technology and  
3 16 modernization fund created in section 602.8108, subsection 7,  
3 17 during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, and ending June  
3 18 30, 2009, and the plans for expenditures from each fund during  
3 19 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30,  
3 20 2010. A copy of the report shall be provided to the  
3 21 legislative services agency.

3 22 10. The judicial branch is encouraged to purchase products  
3 23 from Iowa state industries, as defined in section 904.802,  
3 24 when purchases are required and the products are available  
3 25 from Iowa state industries. The judicial branch shall obtain  
3 26 bids from Iowa state industries for purchases of office  
3 27 furniture during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009,  
3 28 exceeding \$5,000.

3 29 Sec. 2. POSTING OF REPORTS IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT ==  
3 30 LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY. All reports or copies of reports  
3 31 required to be provided by the judicial branch for fiscal year  
3 32 2009-2010 to the legislative services agency shall be provided  
3 33 in an electronic format. The legislative services agency  
3 34 shall post the reports on its internet website and shall  
3 35 notify by electronic means all the members of the joint  
4 1 appropriations subcommittee on the justice system when a  
4 2 report is posted. Upon request, copies of the reports may be  
4 3 mailed to members of the joint appropriations subcommittee on  
4 4 the justice system.

#### 4 5 EXPLANATION

4 6 This bill makes appropriations from the general fund of the  
4 7 state for FY 2009-2010 to the judicial branch. Under the  
4 8 bill, the state's required contribution to the judicial  
4 9 retirement fund is combined with the appropriation for  
4 10 salaries, maintenance, equipment, and other miscellaneous  
4 11 purposes.

4 12 The bill encourages the judicial branch to purchase  
4 13 products produced by Iowa state industries.

4 14 The bill requires the judicial branch to submit all reports  
4 15 or copies of reports to the legislative services agency in an  
4 16 electronic format.

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