

Senate File 563 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 563
BY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1215)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to appropriations to the judicial branch.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. JUDICIAL BRANCH.

2 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of the state
3 to the judicial branch for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
4 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, the following amounts, or so
5 much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purposes
6 designated:

7 a. For salaries of supreme court justices, appellate court
8 judges, district court judges, district associate judges,
9 associate juvenile judges, associate probate judges, judicial
10 magistrates and staff, state court administrator, clerk of
11 the supreme court, district court administrators, clerks of
12 the district court, juvenile court officers, board of law
13 examiners, board of examiners of shorthand reporters, and
14 commission on judicial qualifications; receipt and disbursement
15 of child support payments; reimbursement of the auditor
16 of state for expenses incurred in completing audits of the
17 offices of the clerks of the district court during the fiscal
18 year beginning July 1, 2023; and maintenance, equipment, and
19 miscellaneous purposes:

20 \$ _____

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

26 \$ _____

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

33 3. The judicial branch shall submit monthly financial
34 statements to the legislative services agency and the
35 department of management containing all appropriated accounts

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

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

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

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

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

34 8. The judicial branch shall provide a report to the general
35 assembly by January 1, 2024, concerning the amounts received

1 and expended from the court technology and modernization fund
2 created in section 602.8108, subsection 7, during the fiscal
3 year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, and the
4 plans for expenditures from each fund during the fiscal year
5 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.

6 Sec. 2. CIVIL TRIALS — LOCATION. Notwithstanding any
7 provision to the contrary, for the fiscal year beginning July
8 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, if all parties in a case
9 agree, a civil trial including a jury trial may take place in a
10 county contiguous to the county with proper jurisdiction, even
11 if the contiguous county is located in an adjacent judicial
12 district or judicial election district. If the trial is moved
13 pursuant to this section, court personnel shall treat the case
14 as if a change of venue occurred.

15 Sec. 3. TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT. Notwithstanding section
16 602.1509, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and
17 ending June 30, 2024, a judicial officer may waive travel
18 reimbursement for any travel outside the judicial officer's
19 county of residence to conduct official judicial business.

20 Sec. 4. JUDICIAL OFFICER — UNPAID LEAVE. Notwithstanding
21 the annual salary rates for judicial officers established by
22 2022 Iowa Acts, chapter 1145, section 6, for the fiscal year
23 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, the supreme
24 court may by order place all judicial officers on unpaid leave
25 status on any day employees of the judicial branch are placed
26 on temporary layoff status. The biweekly pay of the judicial
27 officers shall be reduced accordingly for the pay period in
28 which the unpaid leave date occurred in the same manner as
29 for noncontract employees of the judicial branch. Through
30 the course of the fiscal year, the judicial branch may use an
31 amount equal to the aggregate amount of salary reductions due
32 to the judicial officer unpaid leave days for any purpose other
33 than for judicial salaries.

34 Sec. 5. IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. It is the intent
35 of the general assembly that the judicial branch utilize

1 the Iowa communications network or other secure electronic
2 communications in lieu of traveling for the fiscal year
3 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.

4 EXPLANATION

5 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
6 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

7 This bill makes appropriations to the judicial branch.

8 The bill appropriates from the general fund of the state
9 for FY 2023-2024 to the judicial branch for salaries, receipt
10 and disbursement of child support payments, reimbursement of
11 the auditor of state, maintenance, equipment, miscellaneous
12 purposes, and for deposit in the revolving fund created
13 pursuant to Code section 602.1302(3) for certain purposes.

14 The bill provides that a civil trial including a jury trial
15 may take place in a county contiguous to the county with proper
16 jurisdiction, even if the contiguous county is located in an
17 adjacent judicial district or judicial election district, if
18 all the parties in a case agree. If a trial is moved to another
19 county that is located in another judicial district or judicial
20 election district, the judicial officers serving the judicial
21 district or judicial election district receiving the case shall
22 preside over the case.

23 The bill permits a judicial officer to waive travel
24 reimbursement for any travel outside the judicial officer's
25 county of residence to conduct official business.

26 The bill allows a judicial officer to be placed on unpaid
27 leave on any day a court employee is required to furlough.
28 The bill provides that if a judicial officer is placed on
29 unpaid leave, the salary of the judicial officer shall be
30 reduced accordingly for the pay period in which the unpaid
31 leave occurred. The bill provides that the judicial branch
32 may use an amount equal to the aggregate amount of the salary
33 reductions due to judicial officer unpaid leave for any purpose
34 other than judicial salaries.

35 The bill states legislative intent that the judicial

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1 branch utilize the Iowa communications network or other secure
2 electronic communications in lieu of traveling.