

House File 1048 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 1048
BY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 340)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to and making appropriations to the judicial
2 branch, including judicial officer salaries and interpreter or
3 translator fees, and including effective date provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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DIVISION I

FY 2025-2026 APPROPRIATIONS

Section 1. JUDICIAL BRANCH.

1. There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the judicial branch for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, the following amounts, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purposes designated:

a. For salaries of supreme court justices, appellate court judges, district court judges, district associate judges, associate juvenile judges, associate probate judges, judicial magistrates and staff, state court administrator, clerk of the supreme court, district court administrators, clerks of the district court, juvenile court officers, board of law examiners, board of examiners of shorthand reporters, and commission on judicial qualifications; receipt and disbursement of child support payments; reimbursement of the auditor of state for expenses incurred in completing audits of the offices of the clerks of the district court during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025; and maintenance, equipment, and miscellaneous purposes:

..... \$202,691,378

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

..... \$ 3,600,000

c. For payment of expenses for court-ordered services provided to juveniles who are under the supervision of juvenile court services, which expenses are a charge upon the state pursuant to section 232.141, subsection 4:

..... \$ 3,290,000

(1) Of the moneys appropriated in this lettered paragraph, no more than \$1,556,000 is allocated to provide school-based supervision of children under chapter 232, of which no more than

1 \$25,000 may be used for purposes of training.

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

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

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

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

30 (6) Of the moneys appropriated in this lettered paragraph, an
31 amount not to exceed the actual cost of the annual membership fee
32 is allocated to the judicial branch to support the interstate
33 commission for juveniles in accordance with the interstate
34 compact for juveniles as provided in section 232.173.

35 (7) Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in this

1 lettered paragraph that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the
2 close of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain
3 available for expenditure for the purposes designated until the
4 close of the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2028.

5 d. For juvenile delinquent graduated sanctions services
6 pursuant to section 232.192:

7 \$ 12,253,000

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

14 (2) Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in this
15 lettered paragraph that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the
16 close of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain
17 available for expenditure for the purposes designated until the
18 close of the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2028.

19 2. The judicial branch, except for purposes of internal
20 processing, shall use the current state budget system, the state
21 payroll system, and the Iowa finance and accounting system in
22 administration of programs and payments for services, and shall
23 not duplicate the state payroll, accounting, and budgeting
24 systems.

25 3. The judicial branch shall submit monthly financial
26 statements to the legislative services agency and the department
27 of management containing all appropriated accounts in the same
28 manner as provided in the monthly financial status reports and
29 personal services usage reports of the department of
30 administrative services. The monthly financial statements shall
31 include a comparison of the dollars and percentage spent of
32 budgeted versus actual revenues and expenditures on a cumulative
33 basis for full-time equivalent positions and dollars.

34 4. The judicial branch shall focus efforts upon the
35 collection of delinquent fines, penalties, court costs, fees,

1 surcharges, or similar amounts.

2 5. It is the intent of the general assembly that the offices
3 of the clerks of the district court operate in all 99 counties
4 and be accessible to the public as much as is reasonably possible
5 in order to address the relative needs of the citizens of each
6 county. An office of the clerk of the district court shall be
7 open regular courthouse hours.

8 6. In addition to the requirements for transfers under
9 section 8.39, the judicial branch shall not change the
10 appropriations from the amounts appropriated to the judicial
11 branch in this Act, unless notice of the revisions is given to
12 the legislative services agency prior to the effective date. The
13 notice shall include information on the judicial branch's
14 rationale for making the changes and details concerning the
15 workload and performance measures upon which the changes are
16 based.

17 7. The judicial branch shall submit a semiannual update to
18 the legislative services agency and department of management
19 specifying the amounts of fines, surcharges, and court costs
20 collected using the Iowa court information system since the last
21 report. The judicial branch shall continue to facilitate the
22 sharing of vital sentencing and other information with other
23 state departments and governmental agencies involved in the
24 criminal justice system through the Iowa court information
25 system.

26 8. The judicial branch shall provide a report to the general
27 assembly and department of management by January 1, 2026,
28 concerning the amounts received and expended from the court
29 technology and modernization fund created in section 602.8108,
30 subsection 7, during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and
31 ending June 30, 2025, and the plans for expenditures from the
32 fund during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
33 June 30, 2026.

34 Sec. 2. CIVIL TRIALS — LOCATION. Notwithstanding any
35 provision to the contrary, for the fiscal year beginning July 1,

1 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, if all parties in a case agree,
2 a civil trial including a jury trial may take place in a county
3 contiguous to the county with proper jurisdiction, even if the
4 contiguous county is located in an adjacent judicial district or
5 judicial election district. If the trial is moved pursuant to
6 this section, court personnel shall treat the case as if a change
7 of venue occurred.

8 Sec. 3. TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT. Notwithstanding section
9 602.1509, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
10 June 30, 2026, a judicial officer may waive travel reimbursement
11 for any travel outside the judicial officer's county of residence
12 to conduct official judicial business.

13 Sec. 4. JUDICIAL OFFICER — UNPAID LEAVE. Notwithstanding
14 the annual salary rates for judicial officers established by
15 this division of this Act for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
16 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, the supreme court may by order
17 place all judicial officers on unpaid leave status on any day
18 employees of the judicial branch are placed on temporary layoff
19 status. The biweekly pay of the judicial officers shall be
20 reduced accordingly for the pay period in which the unpaid leave
21 date occurred in the same manner as for noncontract employees of
22 the judicial branch. Through the course of the fiscal year, the
23 judicial branch may use an amount equal to the aggregate amount
24 of salary reductions due to the judicial officer unpaid leave
25 days for any purpose other than for judicial salaries.

26 Sec. 5. IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. It is the intent of
27 the general assembly that the judicial branch utilize the Iowa
28 communications network or other secure electronic communications
29 in lieu of traveling for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025,
30 and ending June 30, 2026.

31 Sec. 6. SALARIES — STATE COURT JUSTICES, JUDGES, AND
32 MAGISTRATES.

33 1. The salary rates specified in subsection 2 are for the
34 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, effective for the pay period
35 beginning June 20, 2025, and for subsequent fiscal years until

1 otherwise provided by the general assembly. The salaries
2 provided for in this section shall be paid from moneys
3 appropriated to the judicial branch pursuant to this division of
4 this Act or any other Act of the general assembly.

5 2. The following annual salary rates shall be paid to the
6 persons holding the judicial positions indicated during the
7 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, effective with the pay period
8 beginning June 20, 2025, and for subsequent pay periods:

9	a. Chief justice of the supreme court:		
10	.....	\$	211,059
11	b. Each justice of the supreme court:		
12	.....	\$	201,609
13	c. Chief judge of the court of appeals:		
14	.....	\$	189,010
15	d. Each associate judge of the court of appeals:		
16	.....	\$	182,709
17	e. Each chief judge of a judicial district:		
18	.....	\$	176,409
19	f. Each district judge except the chief judge of a judicial		
20	district:		
21	.....	\$	170,108
22	g. Each district associate judge:		
23	.....	\$	151,208
24	h. Each associate juvenile judge:		
25	.....	\$	151,208
26	i. Each associate probate judge:		
27	.....	\$	151,208
28	j. Each judicial magistrate:		
29	.....	\$	46,621
30	k. Each senior judge:		
31	.....	\$	10,080

32 3. Persons receiving salary rates established under this
33 section shall not receive any additional salary adjustments
34 provided by this division of this Act or any other Act of the
35 general assembly.

1 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. The section of this division of this
2 Act enacting salaries for state court justices, judges, and
3 magistrates takes effect June 20, 2025.

4 DIVISION II

5 INTERPRETER OR TRANSLATOR FEES

6 Sec. 8. Section 602.1302, subsection 3, Code 2025, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 3. A revolving fund is created in the state treasury for
9 the payment of jury and witness fees, mileage, costs related to
10 summoning jurors by the judicial branch, costs and fees related
11 to the management and payment of interpreters and translators
12 in judicial branch legal proceedings and court-ordered programs,
13 and attorney fees paid by the state public defender for counsel
14 appointed pursuant to section 600A.6A. The judicial branch shall
15 deposit any reimbursements to the state for the payment of jury
16 and witness fees, and mileage fees, and interpreter or translator
17 fees in the revolving fund. In each calendar quarter the
18 judicial branch shall reimburse the state public defender for
19 attorney fees paid pursuant to section 600A.6B. Notwithstanding
20 section 8.33, unencumbered and unobligated receipts in the
21 revolving fund at the end of a fiscal year do not revert to
22 the general fund of the state. The judicial branch shall on
23 or before February 1 file a financial accounting of the moneys
24 in the revolving fund with the legislative services agency. The
25 accounting shall include an estimate of disbursements from the
26 revolving fund for the remainder of the fiscal year and for the
27 next fiscal year.

28 Sec. 9. Section 602.8107, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code
29 2025, is amended to read as follows:

30 b. The department of revenue shall receive fifteen percent
31 of each court debt payment collected on cases assigned to the
32 department of revenue for collection to reflect the cost of
33 processing and the remaining eighty-five percent of such court
34 debt collected shall be paid to the clerk of the district court
35 for distribution under section 602.8108. The department of

1 revenue collection fee shall not include the amount of court debt
2 collected for restitution involving pecuniary damages, the victim
3 compensation fund, the crime services surcharge, the domestic and
4 sexual abuse crimes surcharge, the agricultural theft surcharge,
5 ~~or the sex offender civil penalty, or interpreter or translator~~
6 fees.

7 Sec. 10. Section 602.8107, subsection 4, paragraph a, Code
8 2025, is amended to read as follows:

9 a. This subsection does not apply to amounts collected for
10 restitution involving pecuniary damages, the victim compensation
11 fund, the crime services surcharge, the domestic and sexual
12 abuse crimes surcharge, the agricultural theft surcharge, the sex
13 offender civil penalty, interpreter or translator fees, or under
14 section 421.65.

15 EXPLANATION

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

18 This bill relates to and makes appropriations to the judicial
19 branch.

20 FY 2025-2026 APPROPRIATIONS. The bill appropriates moneys
21 from the general fund of the state for FY 2025-2026 to
22 the judicial branch for salaries, receipt and disbursement of
23 child support payments, reimbursement of the auditor of state,
24 maintenance, equipment, miscellaneous purposes, deposit in the
25 revolving fund created pursuant to Code section 602.1302(3) for
26 certain purposes, payment of court-ordered juvenile services, and
27 juvenile delinquent graduated sanctions services.

28 The bill provides that a civil trial including a jury trial
29 may take place in a county contiguous to the county with proper
30 jurisdiction, even if the contiguous county is located in an
31 adjacent judicial district or judicial election district, if all
32 the parties in a case agree. If a trial is moved to another
33 county that is located in another judicial district or judicial
34 election district, the judicial officers serving the judicial
35 district or judicial election district receiving the case shall

1 preside over the case.

2 The bill permits a judicial officer to waive travel
3 reimbursement for any travel outside the judicial officer's
4 county of residence to conduct official business.

5 The bill allows a judicial officer to be placed on unpaid
6 leave on any day a court employee is required to furlough.
7 The bill provides that if a judicial officer is placed on
8 unpaid leave, the salary of the judicial officer shall be
9 reduced accordingly for the pay period in which the unpaid leave
10 occurred. The bill provides that the judicial branch may use
11 an amount equal to the aggregate amount of the salary reductions
12 due to judicial officer unpaid leave for any purpose other than
13 judicial salaries.

14 The bill states legislative intent that the judicial
15 branch utilize the Iowa communications network or other secure
16 electronic communications in lieu of traveling.

17 The bill sets forth salaries for justices, judges, and
18 magistrates. This provision takes effect June 20, 2025.

19 INTERPRETER OR TRANSLATOR FEES. The bill provides that the
20 judicial branch shall deposit any reimbursements to the state
21 for interpreter or translator fees in the revolving fund under
22 Code section 602.1302. The bill prohibits the department of
23 revenue court debt collection fee from including interpreter or
24 translator fees. The bill also prohibits the county attorney
25 from collecting court debt from interpreter or translator fees.