

House Study Bill 340 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON MOHR)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to and making appropriations to the judicial
2 branch, including juror compensation and judicial officer
3 salaries, 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:

..... \$203,899,106

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:

..... \$ 4,408,425

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 section 602.1501, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025,
15 and ending June 30, 2026, the supreme court may by order place
16 all judicial officers on unpaid leave status on any day employees
17 of the judicial branch are placed on temporary layoff status.
18 The biweekly pay of the judicial officers shall be reduced
19 accordingly for the pay period in which the unpaid leave date
20 occurred in the same manner as for noncontract employees of the
21 judicial branch. Through the course of the fiscal year, the
22 judicial branch may use an amount equal to the aggregate amount
23 of salary reductions due to the judicial officer unpaid leave
24 days for any purpose other than for judicial salaries.

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

30 DIVISION II

31 JUROR COMPENSATION

32 Sec. 6. Section 607A.8, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended
33 to read as follows:

34 1. A grand juror and a petit juror in all courts shall
35 receive ~~thirty~~ forty-five dollars as compensation for each day's

1 service or attendance, including attendance required for the
2 purpose of being considered for service. The supreme court
3 ~~may shall~~ adopt rules that allow ~~additional compensation for~~
4 jurors whose attendance and service ~~exceeds~~ exceed seven days to
5 receive sixty-five dollars as compensation for each day's service
6 or attendance after the seventh day of service or attendance,
7 including attendance required for the purpose of being considered
8 for service.

9 DIVISION III

10 JUDICIAL OFFICER SALARIES

11 Sec. 7. Section 602.1501, Code 2025, is amended by striking
12 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

13 **602.1501 Judicial officer salaries.**

14 1. A salary rate specified in subsection 2 takes effect at
15 the start of the pay period in which the applicable fiscal year
16 begins. The salaries provided for in this section shall be paid
17 from moneys appropriated to the judicial branch.

18 2. a. (1) Each district judge except the chief judge of
19 a judicial district shall receive an annual salary equal to a
20 specified percentage of the annual rate of compensation for a
21 district judge of the United States in effect at the beginning of
22 the applicable state fiscal year, as follows:

23 (a) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, sixty-eight
24 percent.

25 (b) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, sixty-nine
26 percent.

27 (c) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, seventy
28 percent.

29 (d) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2028, seventy-one
30 percent.

31 (e) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2029, seventy-two
32 percent.

33 (f) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2030, seventy-three
34 percent.

35 (g) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2031, seventy-four

1 percent.

2 (2) This paragraph is repealed July 1, 2032.

3 b. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2032, and adjusted
4 for each fiscal year thereafter, each district judge except the
5 chief judge of a judicial district shall receive an annual salary
6 equal to seventy-five percent of the annual rate of compensation
7 for a district judge of the United States in effect at the
8 beginning of the applicable state fiscal year.

9 c. The following judicial officer salaries shall be
10 calculated as a percentage of the state district judge salary for
11 a given fiscal year as specified in this subsection, as follows:

12 (1) For the chief justice of the supreme court, one hundred
13 twenty-four percent.

14 (2) For each justice of the supreme court except the chief
15 justice, one hundred nineteen percent.

16 (3) For the chief judge of the court of appeals, one hundred
17 eleven percent.

18 (4) For each judge of the court of appeals except the chief
19 judge of the court of appeals, one hundred seven percent.

20 (5) For each chief judge of a judicial district, one hundred
21 four percent.

22 (6) For each district associate judge, associate juvenile
23 judge, and associate probate judge, eighty-nine percent.

24 (7) For each magistrate, twenty-seven percent, subject to
25 section 602.6402.

26 (8) For each senior judge, six percent.

27 3. Notwithstanding subsection 2, if the supreme court
28 determines that appropriations to the judicial branch for a
29 given fiscal year are insufficient to provide the full allowable
30 judicial officer salaries set forth in subsection 2 or other good
31 cause exists, the supreme court may provide judicial officers a
32 lower annual salary.

33 Sec. 8. Section 602.9104, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
34 2025, is amended to read as follows:

35 a. A judge to whom this article applies shall be paid

1 an amount equal to the basic salary of the judge as set by
2 ~~the general assembly~~ section 602.1501, reduced by an amount
3 designated as the judge's required contribution to the judicial
4 retirement fund. The amount designated as the judge's required
5 contribution shall be paid by the state in the manner provided in
6 subsection 2.

7 Sec. 9. Section 602.9204, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
8 2025, is amended to read as follows:

9 a. A judge who retires on or after July 1, 1994, and who is
10 appointed a senior judge under section 602.9203 shall be paid a
11 salary as determined by ~~the general assembly~~ section 602.1501.

12 Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act takes
13 effect June 20, 2025.

14 EXPLANATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 JUROR COMPENSATION. The bill provides that a grand juror and a
17 petit juror in all courts shall receive \$45 as compensation for
18 each day's service or attendance. Under current law, a juror
19 is entitled to \$30 for each day's service or attendance. The
20 bill also requires the supreme court to adopt rules that allow
21 juror compensation for service or attendance over seven days to
22 be increased to \$65 per day after the seventh day of service or
23 attendance.

24 JUDICIAL OFFICER SALARIES. Under current law, the general
25 assembly determines the salaries of judicial officers by enacting
26 the salaries in annual appropriations bills.

27 The bill instead creates a formula to calculate judicial
28 officer salaries. The bill requires the judicial officer
29 salaries to be paid from the moneys appropriated to the judicial
30 branch in a given fiscal year. The bill provides various amounts
31 over eight fiscal years for a state district judge's salary
32 based on certain percentages of the salary of a federal district
33 judge, and sets the salary of other judicial officers based
34 on a percentage of the salary of a state district judge as
35 follows: the chief justice of the supreme court, 124 percent;

1 other justices of the supreme court, 119 percent; the chief
2 judge of the court of appeals, 111 percent; a judge of the
3 court of appeals except the chief judge, 107 percent; a chief
4 judge of a judicial district, 104 percent; a district associate
5 judge, associate juvenile judge, or associate probate judge,
6 89 percent; a magistrate, 27 percent, subject to Code section
7 602.6402 (additional magistrate allowed); and a senior judge, 6
8 percent.

9 The bill allows the supreme court to provide lower salaries
10 for judicial officers if the supreme court decides that the
11 moneys appropriated in a given fiscal year are not sufficient to
12 provide the full allowable salaries for judicial officers, or if
13 other good cause exists.

14 The bill makes conforming changes to Code sections 602.9104
15 and 602.9204. By operation of law, these provisions affect the
16 salaries of county attorneys of counties with a population of
17 200,000 or less (Code section 331.752(5)).

18 These provisions take effect June 20, 2025.