

Judicial Branch Appropriations Bill Senate File 442

Last Action:

Senate Floor

April 15, 2013

An Act relating to appropriations to the judicial branch.

**Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency**

NOTES ON BILLS AND AMENDMENTS (NOBA)

Available on line at <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/LSAReports/noba.aspx>

LSA Contact: Jennifer Acton (515-281-7846)

FUNDING SUMMARY

Appropriates a total of \$167.7 million from the General Fund to the Judicial Branch for FY 2014. This is an increase of \$5.7 million compared to estimated FY 2013. Page 1, Line 1

STUDIES AND INTENT

Prohibits the Judicial Branch from duplicating the State payroll system. Page 1, Line 26

Requires the Judicial Branch to submit monthly financial statements to the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) and the Department of Management (DOM). Page 1, Line 32

Requires the Judicial Branch to focus efforts on collecting delinquent fines and fees. Page 2, Line 7

Specifies legislative intent that the Offices of the Clerks of District Court operate in all 99 counties and be accessible to the public as much as reasonably possible. Page 2, Line 10

Requires the Judicial Branch to provide a semiannual report to the LSA, specifying the amount of fines, surcharges, and court costs collected using the Iowa Court Information System (ICIS). Page 2, Line 24

Requires the Judicial Branch to report to the General Assembly by January 1, 2014, regarding the revenues and expenditures of the Enhanced Court Collections Fund and the Court Technology and Modernization Fund for FY 2013 and planned expenditures for FY 2014. Page 2, Line 32

Permits parties to a civil case, including a jury trial, to move the case to a contiguous county. Page 3, Line 7

Permits a judicial officer to waive travel reimbursement for any travel outside the county of residence of the judicial officer. Page 3, Line 20

Permits the Supreme Court to order judicial officers to take unpaid leave in the same manner as noncontract employees of the Judicial Branch. Page 3, Line 35

Specifies it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Judicial Branch utilize the Iowa Communications Network or other secure electronic communications in lieu of traveling for FY 2014. Page 4, Line 14

1 1 Section 1. JUDICIAL BRANCH.

1 2 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of the state
1 3 to the judicial branch for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
1 4 2013, and ending June 30, 2014, the following amount, or so
1 5 much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purposes
1 6 designated:

1 7 a. For salaries of supreme court justices, appellate court
1 8 judges, district court judges, district associate judges,
1 9 judicial magistrates and staff, state court administrator,
1 10 clerk of the supreme court, district court administrators,
1 11 clerks of the district court, juvenile court officers, board of
1 12 law examiners and board of examiners of shorthand reporters and
1 13 judicial qualifications commission; receipt and disbursement
1 14 of child support payments; reimbursement of the auditor
1 15 of state for expenses incurred in completing audits of the
1 16 offices of the clerks of the district court during the fiscal
1 17 year beginning July 1, 2013; and maintenance, equipment, and
1 18 miscellaneous purposes:
1 19 \$ 164,599,367

General Fund appropriation to the Judicial Branch for operations.
DETAIL: This is an increase of \$5,687,545 compared to estimated FY
2013. The increase includes \$2,389,929 to restore 53.00 Clerk of Court
FTE positions that were eliminated due to the 7.10% across-the-board
(ATB) reduction of \$11.4 million in FY 2010; an increase of \$2,741,968
to restore 42.00 FTE positions that were eliminated due to the ATB
reduction in FY 2010; and an increase of \$555,648 and 8.00 FTE
positions for Information Technology staff to help expedite the
implementation of the electronic document management system
(EDMS).

1 20 b. For deposit in the revolving fund created pursuant
1 21 to section 602.1302, subsection 3, for jury and witness
1 22 fees, mileage, costs related to summoning jurors, fees for
1 23 interpreters, and reimbursement of attorney fees paid by the
1 24 state public defender:
1 25 \$ 3,100,000

General Fund appropriation to the Jury and Witness Fee Revolving
Fund for the reimbursement of juror and witness fees, mileage, and
costs.

DETAIL: This is no change compared to estimated FY 2013.

1 26 2. The judicial branch, except for purposes of internal
1 27 processing, shall use the current state budget system, the
1 28 state payroll system, and the Iowa finance and accounting
1 29 system in administration of programs and payments for services,
1 30 and shall not duplicate the state payroll, accounting, and
1 31 budgeting systems.

Prohibits the Judicial Branch from duplicating current State payroll,
budgeting, and accounting systems, except for the implementation of
an internal accounting and recordkeeping system.

1 32 3. The judicial branch shall submit monthly financial
1 33 statements to the legislative services agency and the
1 34 department of management containing all appropriated accounts
1 35 in the same manner as provided in the monthly financial status
2 1 reports and personal services usage reports of the department
2 2 of administrative services. The monthly financial statements
2 3 shall include a comparison of the dollars and percentage
2 4 spent of budgeted versus actual revenues and expenditures on
2 5 a cumulative basis for full-time equivalent positions and
2 6 dollars.

Requires the Judicial Branch to submit monthly financial statements for
all appropriated accounts to the Fiscal Services Division of the
Legislative Services Agency (LSA) and the Department of Management
(DOM). Specifies what is to be included in the financial statements.

2 7 4. The judicial branch shall focus efforts upon the

Requires the Judicial Branch to focus efforts on collecting delinquent

2 8 collection of delinquent fines, penalties, court costs, fees, 2 9 surcharges, or similar amounts.	finer and fees.
2 10 5. It is the intent of the general assembly that the offices 2 11 of the clerks of the district court operate in all 99 counties 2 12 and be accessible to the public as much as is reasonably 2 13 possible in order to address the relative needs of the citizens 2 14 of each county.	Specifies it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Judicial Branch operate Clerk of Court offices in all 99 counties and be open to the public as much as reasonably possible.
2 15 6. In addition to the requirements for transfers under 2 16 section 8.39, the judicial branch shall not change the 2 17 appropriations from the amounts appropriated to the judicial 2 18 branch in this division of this Act, unless notice of the 2 19 revisions is given prior to their effective date to the 2 20 legislative services agency. The notice shall include 2 21 information on the branch's rationale for making the changes 2 22 and details concerning the workload and performance measures 2 23 upon which the changes are based.	Requires the Judicial Branch to notify the LSA prior to any intradepartmental transfer of funds and specifies the contents of the notice.
2 24 7. The judicial branch shall submit a semiannual update 2 25 to the legislative services agency specifying the amounts of 2 26 fines, surcharges, and court costs collected using the Iowa 2 27 court information system since the last report. The judicial 2 28 branch shall continue to facilitate the sharing of vital 2 29 sentencing and other information with other state departments 2 30 and governmental agencies involved in the criminal justice 2 31 system through the Iowa court information system.	Requires the Judicial Branch to provide a semiannual report to the LSA specifying the amount of fines, surcharges, and court costs collected using the Iowa Court Information System (ICIS). Requires the Judicial Branch to continue to share vital sentencing and other information with departments and government agencies involved with the criminal justice system through the ICIS.
2 32 8. The judicial branch shall provide a report to the general 2 33 assembly by January 1, 2014, concerning the amounts received 2 34 and expended from the enhanced court collections fund created 2 35 in section 602.1304 and the court technology and modernization 3 1 fund created in section 602.8108, subsection 7, during the 3 2 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, and ending June 30, 2013, 3 3 and the plans for expenditures from each fund during the fiscal 3 4 year beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2014. A copy 3 5 of the report shall be provided to the legislative services 3 6 agency.	Requires the Judicial Branch to report to the General Assembly by January 1, 2014, regarding the revenues and expenditures of the Enhanced Court Collections Fund and the Court Technology and Modernization Fund for FY 2013 and planned expenditures for FY 2014. The Judicial Branch is required to provide a copy of this report to the LSA.
3 7 Sec. 2. CIVIL TRIALS — LOCATION. Notwithstanding any 3 8 provision to the contrary, for the fiscal year beginning July 3 9 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2014, if all parties in a case 3 10 agree, a civil trial including a jury trial may take place in a 3 11 county contiguous to the county with proper jurisdiction, even 3 12 if the contiguous county is located in an adjacent judicial 3 13 district or judicial election district. If the trial is moved 3 14 pursuant to this section, court personnel shall treat the case 3 15 as if a change of venue occurred. However, if a trial is moved	Permits parties to a civil case, including a jury trial, to move the case to a contiguous county, even if it crosses a judicial district for one year (FY 2014). If the case is moved, the judicial officers in the receiving judicial district will preside over the case.

3 16 to an adjacent judicial district or judicial election district,
3 17 the judicial officers serving in the judicial district or
3 18 judicial election district receiving the case shall preside
3 19 over the case.

3 20 Sec. 3. TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT. Notwithstanding section
3 21 602.1509, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, a
3 22 judicial officer may waive travel reimbursement for any travel
3 23 outside the judicial officer's county of residence to conduct
3 24 official judicial business.

Permits a judicial officer to waive travel reimbursement for any travel outside the county of residence of the judicial officer.

3 25 Sec. 4. POSTING OF REPORTS IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT —
3 26 LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY. All reports or copies of reports
3 27 required to be provided by the judicial branch for fiscal year
3 28 2013-2014 to the legislative services agency shall be provided
3 29 in an electronic format. The legislative services agency shall
3 30 post the reports on its internet website and shall notify by
3 31 electronic means all the members of the joint appropriations
3 32 subcommittee on the justice system when a report is posted.
3 33 Upon request, copies of the reports may be mailed to members of
3 34 the joint appropriations subcommittee on the justice system.

Requires the Judicial Branch to provide the LSA with reports in electronic format to allow the reports to be placed on the LSA website. The LSA is to notify members of the Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee when reports have been received and published.

3 35 Sec. 5. JUDICIAL OFFICER — UNPAID LEAVE. Notwithstanding
4 1 the annual salary rates for judicial officers established by
4 2 2008 Iowa Acts, chapter 1191, section 11, for the fiscal year
4 3 beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2014, the supreme
4 4 court may by order place all judicial officers on unpaid leave
4 5 status on any day employees of the judicial branch are placed
4 6 on temporary layoff status. The biweekly pay of the judicial
4 7 officers shall be reduced accordingly for the pay period in
4 8 which the unpaid leave date occurred in the same manner as
4 9 for noncontract employees of the judicial branch. Through
4 10 the course of the fiscal year, the judicial branch may use an
4 11 amount equal to the aggregate amount of salary reductions due
4 12 to the judicial officer unpaid leave days for any purpose other
4 13 than for judicial salaries.

Permits the Supreme Court to order judicial officers to take unpaid leave in the same manner as noncontract employees of the Judicial Branch through FY 2014.

4 14 Sec. 6. IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. It is the intent
4 15 of the general assembly that the judicial branch utilize
4 16 the Iowa communications network or other secure electronic
4 17 communications in lieu of traveling for the fiscal year
4 18 beginning July 1, 2013.

Specifies it is the intent of General Assembly that the Judicial Branch utilize the Iowa Communications Network or other secure electronic communications in lieu of traveling for FY 2014.

Summary Data

General Fund

	Actual FY 2012 (1)	Estimated FY 2013 (2)	Senate Action FY 2014 (3)	Senate Action vs. Est 2013 (4)	Senate Action FY 2015 (5)	Sen Act FY15 vs Sen Act FY14 (6)
Justice System	\$ 156,411,822	\$ 162,011,822	\$ 167,699,367	\$ 5,687,545	\$ 0	\$ -167,699,367
Grand Total	\$ 156,411,822	\$ 162,011,822	\$ 167,699,367	\$ 5,687,545	\$ 0	\$ -167,699,367

Justice System General Fund

	Actual FY 2012 <u>(1)</u>	Estimated FY 2013 <u>(2)</u>	Senate Action FY 2014 <u>(3)</u>	Senate Action vs. Est 2013 <u>(4)</u>	Senate Action FY 2015 <u>(5)</u>	Sen Act FY15 vs Sen Act FY14 <u>(6)</u>
Judicial Branch						
Judicial Branch	\$ 154,111,822	\$ 158,911,822	\$ 164,599,367	\$ 5,687,545	\$ 0	\$ -164,599,367
Jury & Witness	2,300,000	3,100,000	3,100,000	0	0	-3,100,000
Total Judicial Branch	\$ 156,411,822	\$ 162,011,822	\$ 167,699,367	\$ 5,687,545	\$ 0	\$ -167,699,367
Total Justice System	\$ 156,411,822	\$ 162,011,822	\$ 167,699,367	\$ 5,687,545	\$ 0	\$ -167,699,367

Summary Data

FTE Positions

	Actual FY 2012 (1)	Estimated FY 2013 (2)	Senate Action FY 2014 (3)	Senate Action vs. Est 2013 (4)	Senate Action FY 2015 (5)	Sen Act FY15 vs Sen Act FY14 (6)
Justice System	1,758.84	1,806.21	1,909.21	103.00	0.00	-1,909.21
Grand Total	1,758.84	1,806.21	1,909.21	103.00	0.00	-1,909.21

Justice System FTE Positions

	Actual FY 2012 (1)	Estimated FY 2013 (2)	Senate Action FY 2014 (3)	Senate Action vs. Est 2013 (4)	Senate Action FY 2015 (5)	Sen Act FY15 vs Sen Act FY14 (6)
<u>Judicial Branch</u>						
Judicial Branch						
Judicial Branch	1,758.84	1,806.21	1,909.21	103.00	0.00	-1,909.21
Total Judicial Branch	1,758.84	1,806.21	1,909.21	103.00	0.00	-1,909.21
Total Justice System	1,758.84	1,806.21	1,909.21	103.00	0.00	-1,909.21