

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 2082S.01I  
Bill No.: SB 558  
Subject: Courts; Judges  
Type: Original  
Date: March 3, 2025

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Bill Summary: This proposal increases the number of circuit judges in the 32nd judicial circuit.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
General Revenue	(\$375,892)	(\$454,557)	(\$463,649)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>(\$375,892)</b>	<b>(\$454,557)</b>	<b>(\$463,649)</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
General Revenue	2 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>2 FTE</b>	<b>2 FTE</b>	<b>2 FTE</b>

- Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### §478.710 – Adds circuit judge to the 32<sup>nd</sup> judicial circuit

In response to similar legislation from the current session, officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)** stated §478.710 adds one additional circuit judge to the Thirty-Second Judicial circuit to be elected in 2028. The FY26 salary of a circuit judge is projected to be \$180,602 plus E&E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time; \$861 on-going).

The addition of a circuit judge includes a court reporter for the circuit judge. The FY25 starting salary of a court reporter is \$72,516 plus E &E of \$2,978 (\$2,117 one-time; \$861 on-going).

Therefore, the cost of proposed legislation for the addition of a circuit judge and a court reporter is estimated to be approximately \$259,074 (salaries + E&E) annually, starting in FY28.

**Oversight** has no information to the contrary. However, Oversight assumes the judge will be appointed by the Governor before the election and will present the fiscal impact of this proposal beginning in FY26.

Officials from the **Office of the Governor (GOV)** state this bill adds to the Governor's current load of appointment duties. Individually, additional requirements should not fiscally impact the GOV. However, the cumulative impact of additional appointment duties across all enacted legislation may require additional resources for the GOV.

**Oversight** has no information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will present no fiscal impact for this proposal for the GOV.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<u>Costs – OSCA (\$478,710)</u>			
Personal service	(\$210,932)	(\$258,180)	(\$263,344)
Fringe benefits	(\$159,004)	(\$194,621)	(\$198,513)
Equipment and expense	(\$5,956)	(\$1,756)	(\$1,792)
<b>Total Costs – OSCA</b>	<b>(\$375,892)</b>	<b>(\$454,557)</b>	<b>(\$463,649)</b>
FTE Change – OSCA	2 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>	<b><u>(\$375,892)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$454,557)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$463,649)</u></b>
Estimated Net FTE Change on the General Revenue Fund	2 FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill adds a third circuit judge to the 32nd judicial circuit, appointed initially by the Governor, and elected in and after 2028.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

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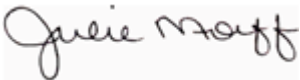
March 3, 2025

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Governor

Office of the Secretary of State

Office of the State Courts Administrator



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