

JUDICIAL IMPACT FISCAL NOTE

Bill Number: 5450 ESB	Title: Adding Superior Court Judges	Agency: 055 – Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
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Part I: Estimates

☐ **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

	FY 2020	FY 2021	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25
Total:					

Estimated Expenditures from:

STATE	FY 2020	FY 2021	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25
FTE – Staff Years		2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Account					
General Fund – State (001-1)		297,716	297,716	595,433	595,433
State Subtotal		297,716	297,716	595,433	595,433
COUNTY					
County FTE Staff Years					
Account					
Local - Counties		199,675	199,675	399,350	399,350
Counties Subtotal		199,675	199,675	399,350	399,350
CITY					
City FTE Staff Years					
Account					
Local – Cities					
Cities Subtotal					
Local Subtotal					
Total Estimated Expenditures:		493,564	493,564	993,128	993,128

The revenue and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Responsibility for expenditures may be subject to the provisions of RCW 43.135.060.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

☒ If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form parts I-V

☐ If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).

☐ Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

Legislative Contact:	Phone:	Date:
Agency Preparation: Pam Kelly	Phone: 360-705-5318	Date: 1/24/2020
Agency Approval: Ramsey Radwan	Phone: 360-357-2406	Date:
OFM Review:	Phone:	Date:

Part II: Narrative Explanation

This bill would authorize the increase of one superior court judge in Clark County. The bill would provide that the increase of one additional superior court judge would only be effective if Clark County, through its duly constituted legislative authority documents its approval of the additional position and its agreement that it will pay out of county funds, without reimbursement from the state, the expenses of the additional judicial position as provided by state law and the constitution.

The bill would authorize the increase of one superior court judge for the counties of Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens jointly. The bill would provide that the increase of one additional superior court judge would only be effective if Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens counties jointly through their duly constituted legislative authority documents their approval of the additional position and their agreement that they will pay out of county funds, without reimbursement from the state, the expenses of the additional judicial position as provided by state law and the constitution.

Part II.A – Brief Description of what the Measure does that has fiscal impact on the Courts

Section 1 – Would authorize the increase of one superior court judge in Clark County, increasing the current number of judges from ten to eleven.

Section 2(1) - Would provide that the increase of one additional superior court judge would only be effective if Clark County, through its duly constituted legislative authority documents its approval of the additional position and its agreement that it will pay out of county funds, without reimbursement from the state, the expenses of the additional judicial position as provided by state law and the constitution.

Section 2(2) – Would provide that the judicial position created by Section 1 would be effective no earlier than the effective date of this section. The actual starting date for the position may be established by the Clark County legislative authority upon request of the superior court and by recommendation of the Clark County executive authority.

Section 3 – Would authorize the increase of one superior court judge in the counties of Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens jointly, increasing the current number of judges from two to three.

Section 4(1) - Would provide that the increase of one additional superior court judge would only be effective if Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens counties jointly, through their duly constituted legislative authority documents their approval of the additional position and their agreement that they will pay out of county funds, without reimbursement from the state, the expenses of the additional judicial position as provided by state law and the constitution.

Section 4(2) - Would provide that the judicial position created by Section 3 would be effective no later than July 1, 2020. An earlier starting date for the position may be established by a joint action of the duly constituted legislative authorities of Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens counties upon request of the superior court and by recommendation of the Clark County executive authorities of each of the counties.

II.B - Cash Receipt Impact

None.

II.C – Expenditures

This bill would increase by the number of superior court judges by two, authorizing one judge in Clark County, and one judge in Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens counties jointly.

The following assumptions were used to determine the fiscal impact of two additional superior court judges:

- The current annual salary for a superior court judge is \$199,675 with annual benefits that total \$49,020.
- The state pays fifty percent of the annual salary for a superior court judge and 100 percent of the benefit costs.
- The local government (counties) pay fifty percent of the annual salary for a superior court judge.
- For purposes of this analysis, it is assumed the two positions would be effective July 1, 2020.
- For purposes of this analysis, no future pay raises as established by the salary commission are assumed.

Table I, below displays the total cost for the two positions proposed by this bill.

Table I – Total Cost, Two Superior Court Judges

	State Share	County Share	Total Annual Cost
Salaries	199,675	199,675	399,350
Benefits	98,041		98,041
Total	297,716	199,675	497,391

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III.A – Expenditures by Object or Purpose

NOTE: The table below displays state costs only.

	FY 2020	FY 2021	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25
FTE – Staff Years		2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
A – Salaries & Wages		199,675	199,675	399,350	399,350
B – Employee Benefits		98,041	98,041	196,083	196,083
C – Prof. Service Contracts					
E – Goods and Services					
G – Travel					
J – Capital Outlays					
P – Debt Service					
Total:		297,716	297,716	595,433	595,433

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

None.

Part V: New Rule Making Required

None.

