

Rider Comparison Packet

Conference Committee on House Bill 1

2024-25 General Appropriations Bill

Article 4 – Judiciary

OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION, TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Differences Only - Excludes Capital

House

Senate

8. Guardianship Abuse, Fraud, and Exploitation Deterrence Program. Amounts appropriated above from the General Revenue Fund include \$2,332,445 in fiscal year 2024 and \$2,181,778 in fiscal year 2025 in Strategy A.1.1, Court Administration and 27.7 FTEs each fiscal year for the Guardianship Abuse, Fraud, and Exploitation Deterrence Program.

13. Contingency for SB 27. Amounts appropriated above in Strategy A.1.1, Court Administration, include \$5,384,665 in fiscal year 2024 and \$5,299,279 in fiscal year 2025 from General Revenue and 30.0 FTEs each fiscal year of the 2024-25 biennium for the purposes of implementing the provisions of Senate Bill 27, or similar legislation, relating to the creation of a specialty trial court to hear certain cases; authorizing fees, contingent upon the enactment of the bill.

14. Contingency for SB 1045. Amounts appropriated above in Strategy A.1.1, Court Administration, include \$3,171,514 in fiscal year 2024 and \$3,058,732 in fiscal year 2025 from General Revenue and 17.0 FTEs each fiscal year of the 2024-25 biennium for the purposes of implementing the provisions of Senate Bill 1045, or similar legislation, relating to the creation of the Fifteenth Court of Appeals with jurisdiction over certain civil cases, the compensation of the justices of that court, and the jurisdiction of the courts of appeals in this state; authorizing fees, contingent upon the enactment of the bill.

14. Costs for Court Text Reminder Program. Amounts appropriated above to the Office of Court Administration from General Revenue in Strategy A.1.2, Information Technology, include \$2,200,000 in fiscal year 2024 for developing and maintaining the court text reminder program established by House Bill 4293, Eighty-Seventh Legislature, Regular Session, 2021.

OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION, TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Differences Only - Excludes Capital

(Continued)

House

Senate

15. Contingency for SB 1318. Amounts appropriated above in Strategy A.1.1, Court Administration, include \$2,732,165 in fiscal year 2024 and \$126,287 in fiscal year 2025 from General Revenue and 1.0 FTE each fiscal year of the 2024-25 biennium for the purposes of implementing the provisions of Senate Bill 1318, or similar legislation, relating to the release of defendants on bail, the duties of a magistrate in certain criminal proceedings, and the appointment of certain criminal law hearing officers; creating a criminal offense, contingent upon the enactment of the bill.

16. District Court Workload Analysis. Included in the amounts appropriated above in Strategy A.1.1, Court Administration, is \$200,000 in fiscal year 2024 for the Office of Court Administration to conduct a study of the staff judicial workload of the district and statutory county courts in this state. Such a study may be contracted through a third-party, and must utilize a weighted caseload considering the nature and complexity of the cases heard. No later than January 1, 2025, the Office of Court Administration shall provide the report to the Governor, Legislative Budget Board, and the chairs of the standing committees of the Senate and House of Representatives with jurisdiction over the Judicial System. At a minimum, the report must include information relating to the following:

- (a) the number of estimated full-time equivalent judicial officers working in the county in the preceding fiscal year;
- (b) the number of full-time equivalent judicial officers needed in the county based on the most recent weighted caseload study;
- (c) the number of new case filings in each of the preceding five fiscal years;
- (d) the clearance rate of cases in each of the preceding five fiscal years;
- (e) the calendar year in which the last district court was created by statute;
- (f) the number of estimated full-time equivalent judicial officers working in the county in the preceding fiscal year;

OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION, TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Differences Only - Excludes Capital
(Continued)

House

Senate

- (g) the number of full-time equivalent judicial officers needed in the county based on the most recent weighted caseload study;
- (h) the number of full-time equivalent court personnel working in the county in the preceding fiscal year; and
- (i) the estimated number of full-time equivalent court personnel needed in the county based on the most recent weighted caseload study.

17. Lump Sum Annual Leave Payout. Amounts appropriated above from the General Revenue Fund include \$267,000 in Strategy B.1.1, Child Support Courts Program, and \$33,000 in Strategy B.1.2, Child Protection Courts Program, that may only be used during the biennium to pay for retirement payouts due at the time of agency employees' retirement. Any part of the appropriation made for retirement payouts due at the time of agency employees' retirement that are not necessary for that purpose shall be lapsed by the agency at the end of the biennium.

STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Differences Only - Excludes Capital

House

Senate

- 2. Contingency for SB 21.** Amounts appropriated above in Strategy A.1.1, Administration and Enforcement, include \$247,474 in fiscal year 2024 and \$247,474 in fiscal year 2025 and 2.0 FTEs each year of the 2024-25 biennium for the purposes of implementing the provisions of Senate Bill 21, or similar legislation relating to conduct of and complaints against current and former judges, contingent upon the enactment of the bill.

JUDICIARY SECTION, COMPTROLLER'S DEPARTMENT

Differences Only - Excludes Capital

House

Senate

- 11. Contingency for House Bill 130.** Amounts appropriated above in Strategy A.1.1, District Judge Salaries, include estimated appropriations totaling \$840,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$840,000 in fiscal year 2025 in General Revenue to provide judicial compensation in accordance with Government Code, Section 659.012, contingent on the enactment of House Bill 130, Eighty-eighth Legislature, Regular Session, or similar legislation, relating to the creation of additional judicial districts composed of Harris County.