

**Court of Criminal Appeals
Summary of Budget Recommendations - House**

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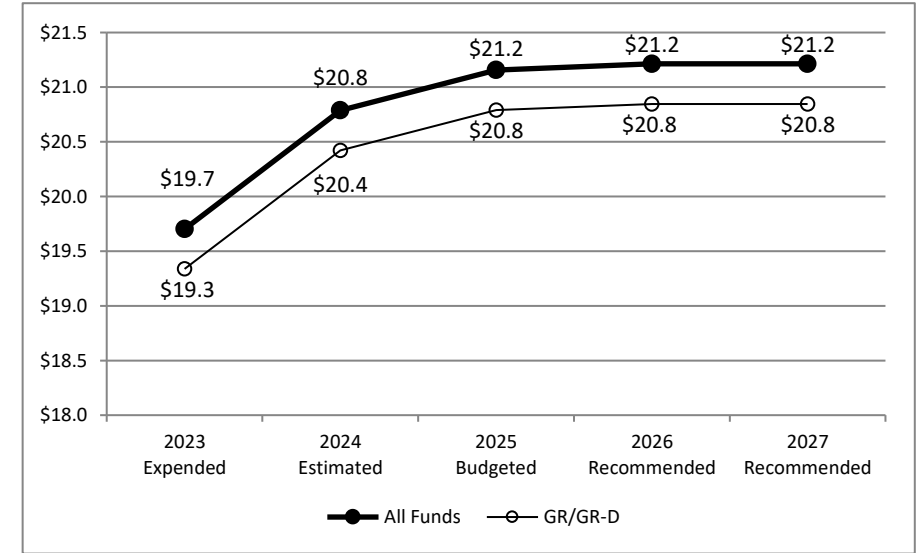
The Honorable David Schenck, Presiding Judge

Jordan Parr, LBB Analyst

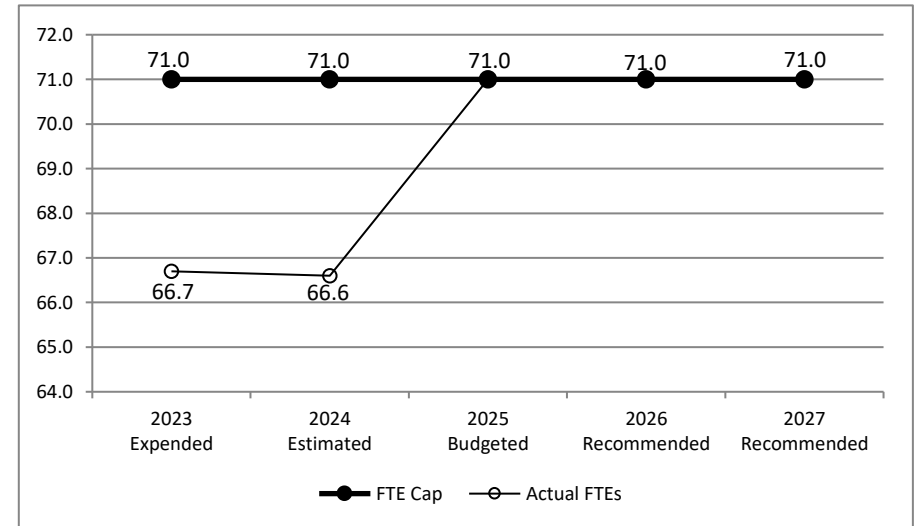
Method of Financing	2024-25 Base	2026-27 Recommended	Biennial Change (\$)	Biennial Change (%)
General Revenue Funds	\$16,294,326	\$16,758,899	\$464,573	2.9%
GR Dedicated Funds	\$24,916,640	\$24,933,280	\$16,640	0.1%
<i>Total GR-Related Funds</i>	<i>\$41,210,966</i>	<i>\$41,692,179</i>	<i>\$481,213</i>	<i>1.2%</i>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Other	\$735,502	\$735,502	\$0	0.0%
All Funds	\$41,946,468	\$42,427,681	\$481,213	1.1%

	FY 2025 Budgeted	FY 2027 Recommended	Biennial Change	Percent Change
FTEs	71.0	71.0	0.0	0.0%

Historical Funding Levels (Millions)



Historical Full-Time-Equivalent Employees (FTEs)



The bill pattern for this agency (2026-27 Recommended) represents an estimated 100.0% of the agency's estimated total available funds for the 2026-27 biennium.

Court of Criminal Appeals
Summary of Funding Changes and Recommendations - House

Funding Changes and Recommendations for the 2026-27 Biennium compared to the 2024-25 Base Spending Level (in millions)		General Revenue	GR-Dedicated	Federal Funds	Other Funds	All Funds	Strategy in Appendix A
<i>OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations (these issues are not addressed in Section 3 but details are provided in Appendix A):</i>							
A)	General Revenue increase for inflationary increases in operating costs, including supplies and contracts for LexisNexis and Westlaw.	\$0.1	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.1	A.1.1
B)	Increase in funding to biennialize the statewide salary adjustments included in the 2024-25 appropriations.	\$0.3	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.3	A.1.1, B.1.1
C)	General Revenue increase to provide a salary adjustment to all Deputy Clerk positions.	\$0.1	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.1	A.1.1
TOTAL SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations (in millions)		\$0.5	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.5	As Listed
<i>SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Increases</i>		\$0.5	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.5	As Listed
<i>SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Decreases</i>		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	As Listed

**Court of Criminal Appeals
Selected Fiscal and Policy Issues - House**

1. **Article-Wide 6.0 Percent Salary Increase for Non-Judicial Staff.** Recommendations do not include \$9.8 million in All Funds, including \$9.6 million in General Revenue and \$0.2 million in Other Funds, requested by all Article IV agencies to provide a 6.0 percent salary increase for non-judicial staff.

The total portion of this request for the Court of Criminal Appeals totals \$0.7 million in General Revenue funding for the 2026-27 biennium (See also, Items Not Included in Recommendations #1).

2. **Judicial Salaries.** Recommendations provide \$3.7 million in All Funds, including \$3.0 million in General Revenue funds, for judicial compensation, which continues 2024-25 spending levels.

Base salaries for judges of the CCA are linked to the base salary of a district judge under the tiered, tenure-based compensation structure established by Government Code §659.012. Statute sets the base salary for a CCA judge, other than the presiding judge, at 120.0 percent of the district judge base salary (\$168,000) for the first four years of their tenure. When their tenure is between 4 and 8 years, the judge earns 110.0 percent of their \$168,000 base salary (\$184,800). A judge with over 8 years of tenure earns a salary that's 120.0 percent of their \$168,000 base salary (\$201,600).

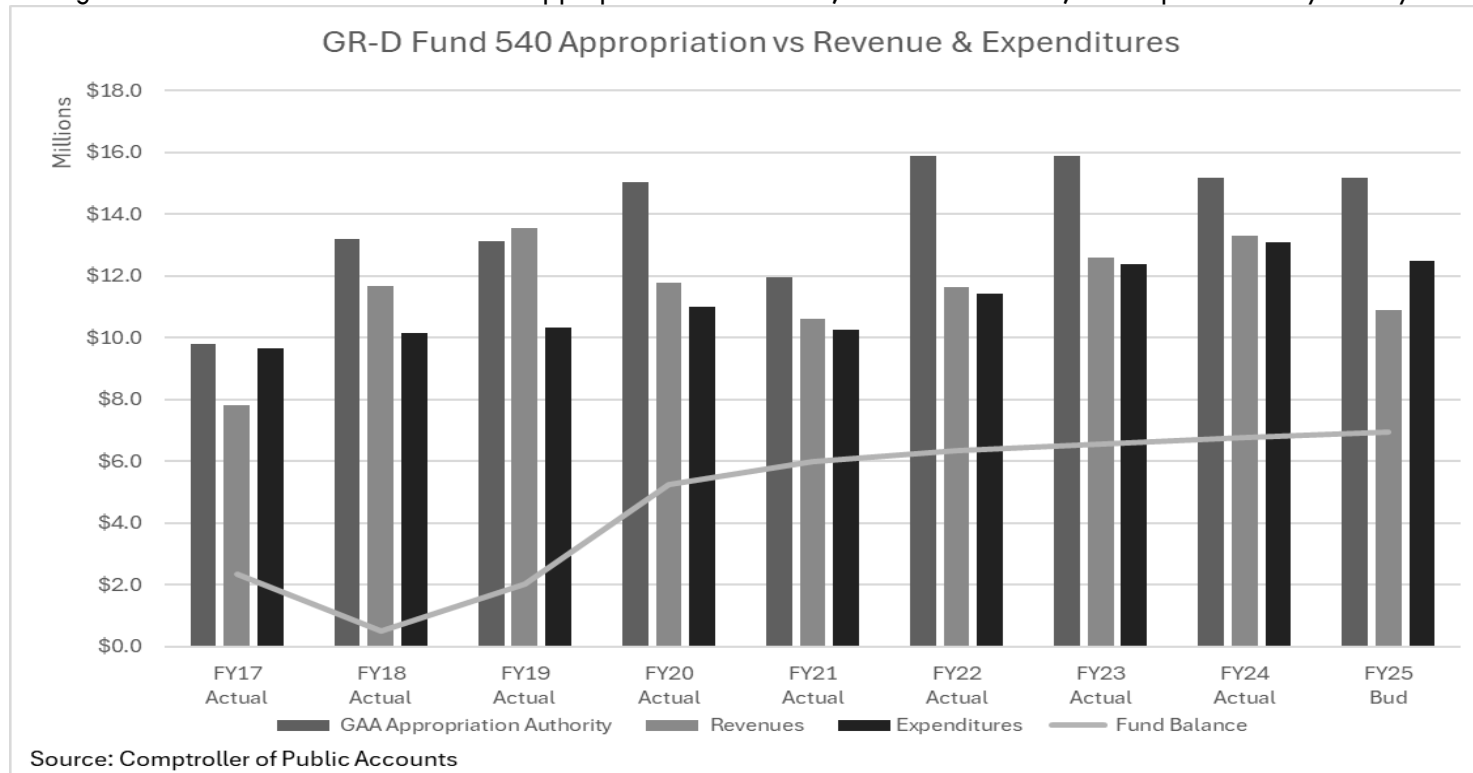
The Judicial Compensation Commission has requested a 30 percent increase to the base salary of a district judge from \$140,000 per year to \$182,000. Recommendations do not include additional funding that would be statutorily required for all judicial positions at the court if the base salary was increased.

3. **Recording of Oral Arguments.** Recommendations continue General Revenue funding amounts of \$0.1 million for ongoing costs associated with recording the court's oral arguments. These amounts have been continued in the Court's budget since the 2018-19 biennium. HB 214, 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, required the agency to make visual and audio recordings of each of the court's oral arguments and public meetings, and to post them on the court's website. The recording services are provided by the Office of Court Administration via an Interagency Contract. Recommendations do not include the court's request for an additional \$0.1 million for recording oral arguments in the 2026-27 biennium (See also, Items Not Included in Recommendations #2).

4. **Judicial Education.** Recommendations provide \$25.8 million in All Funds, including \$0.9 million in General Revenue funds and \$24.9 million in General Revenue – Dedicated Judicial Court and Personnel Training Fund No. 540 (GR-D Fund 540) which continues 2024-25 spending levels, to provide ongoing education for judges and other court staff during the 2026-27 biennium.

GR-D Fund 540 revenues include 3.3224 percent of court costs paid by people convicted of an offense; 3.6497 percent of consolidated filing fees; and Other fees collected by Appellate Court clerks.

The figure below illustrates reflects amounts appropriated to the Court, revenue collections, and expenditures by fiscal year.



The account experienced a brief increase in revenue prior to fiscal year 2020. Court closures and case delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a reduction in collections in fiscal year 2020 and 2021. Since the end of the pandemic, cases and revenues have steadily recovered.

**Court of Criminal Appeals
Rider Highlights - House**

Modification of Existing Riders

1. The following rider includes recommendations to remove obsolete language, make conforming changes such as updating fiscal years and amounts to reflect funding recommendations, and clarify deadlines: Rider 2, Judicial Education.

Deletion of Existing Riders

1. Recommendations delete Rider 3, Contingency for Behavioral Health, due to its inclusion in Article IX, Section 10.04.

**Court of Criminal Appeals
Items Not Included in Recommendations - House**

		2026-27 Biennial Total			Information Technology Involved?	Contracting Involved?	Estimated Continued Cost 2028-29
		GR & GR-D	All Funds	FTEs			
Agency Exceptional Items Not Included (in agency priority order)							
1)	Judiciary-Wide Inflation Relief and Staff Retention and Recruitment. General Revenue funding to provide a 6.0 percent salary increase for non-judicial staff (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #1).	\$1,535,462	\$1,535,462	0.0	No	No	\$1,535,462
2)	Funding for Recording of Oral Arguments. General Revenue funding for the recording of oral arguments authorized by H.B. 214, Eighty-fifth Legislature, Regular Session, 2015. (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issue #3).	\$96,000	\$96,000	0.0	Yes	Yes	\$96,000
3)	Court Facility Upgrades. General Revenue funding to replace carpets and make additional facility improvements.	\$225,000	\$225,000	0.0	No	Yes	\$0
4)	Travel Reimbursements. General Revenue funding to provide travel reimbursement to judges pursuant to Government Code, Section 22.3015.	\$216,000	216,000	0.0	No	No	\$216,000
5)	Three Additional FTE's: General Revenue funding for 3.0 FTEs to assist Judges with maintaining workloads and assisting with administrative and legislative duties, including 1.0 Law Clerk, 1.0 Research Attorney, and 1.0 Administrator position. Included in this request is \$104,376 for a 6 percent salary increase contingent on approval of Item #1.	\$816,032	\$816,032	3.0	No	No	\$816,032
6)	Travel Reimbursements for Oral Arguments. General Revenue funding for travel costs associated with oral arguments held at law schools throughout the state.	\$60,000	\$60,000	0.0	No	No	\$60,000
7)	Inflationary Adjustment for Judicial Education. General Revenue funding to offset increased costs associated with hosting judicial education seminars, including lodging and travel.	\$400,000	400,000	0.0	No	No	\$400,000
TOTAL Items Not Included in Recommendations		\$3,348,494	\$3,348,494	3.0			\$3,123,494

**Court of Criminal Appeals
Appendices - House**

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* Appendix is not included - no significant information to report

**Court of Criminal Appeals
Funding Changes and Recommendations by Strategy - House -- ALL FUNDS**

Strategy/Goal	2024-25 Base	2026-27 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change	Comments
APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS A.1.1	\$12,471,952	\$12,936,525	\$464,573	3.7%	Recommendations reflect an increase of \$100,000 in General Revenue for increased inflationary costs to court operations, including consumable supplies and subscriptions to LexisNexis/Westlaw. Recommendations reflect an increase of \$285,403 in General Revenue to biennialize the statewide salary adjustments included in the 2024-25 appropriations. Recommendations reflect an increase of \$79,170 increase in General Revenue to provide an adjustment to the pay of Deputy Clerks.
APPELLATE JUDGE SALARIES A.1.2	\$3,682,876	\$3,682,876	\$0	0.0%	
Total, Goal A, APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$16,154,828	\$16,619,401	\$464,573	2.9%	
JUDICIAL EDUCATION B.1.1	\$25,791,640	\$25,808,280	\$16,640	0.1%	Recommendations reflect an increase of \$16,640 in General Revenue - Dedicated Judicial and Court Personnel Training Fund No. 540 to biennialize the statewide salary adjustments included in the 2024-25 appropriations.
Total, Goal B, JUDICIAL EDUCATION	\$25,791,640	\$25,808,280	\$16,640	0.1%	
Grand Total, All Strategies	\$41,946,468	\$42,427,681	\$481,213	1.1%	

**Court of Criminal Appeals
FTE Highlights - House**

Full-Time-Equivalent Positions	Expended 2023	Expended 2024	Budgeted 2025	Recommended 2026	Recommended 2027
Cap	71.0	71.0	71.0	71.0	71.0
Actual/Budgeted	66.7	66.6	71.0	NA	NA

Schedule of Exempt Positions (Cap)					
Presiding Judge (1)	\$170,500	\$170,500	\$170,500	\$170,500	\$170,500
Judge (8)	\$168,000	\$168,000	\$168,000	\$168,000	\$168,000

Notes:

a) The Court of Criminal Appeals is exempted from Article IX, Section 6.10, which limits the number of FTEs paid from appropriated funds to the amounts specified in the General Appropriations Act.

b) The base salaries for judges of the Court of Criminal Appeals are linked to the base salary of a district judge under the tiered, tenure-based compensation structure established by Government Code §659.012. Statute sets the base salary for a judge, other than the presiding judge, of the Court of Criminal Appeals at 120.0 percent of the district judge base salary (\$168,000) for the first four years of their tenure. When their tenure is between 4 and 8 years, the judge earns 110.0 percent of their \$168,000 base salary (\$184,800). A judge with over 8 years of tenure earns a salary that's 120.0 percent of their \$168,000 base salary (\$201,600).

c) State Auditor's Office is the source for the fiscal year 2023 and 2024 annual average (actual) FTE level.