

**Judicial Branch
Budget 180
Senate Bill No. 2002**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2001-03 legislative appropriation	336.00	\$53,753,509	\$2,217,821	\$55,971,330
1999-2001 legislative appropriation	351.00	40,640,576	1,049,943	41,690,519
2001-03 appropriation increase (decrease) to 1999-2001 appropriation	(15.00)	\$13,112,933	\$1,167,878	\$14,280,811

Item Description

Indigent defense funding - Senate Bill No. 2081 establishes an application fee of \$25 for indigent defense and provides a continuing appropriation for all money collected for administration of indigent defense system and collection of costs and expenses required to be reimbursed.

Clerk of district court funding - The judicial branch received funding of \$10,904,353, of which \$10,154,353 is from the general fund, for the clerk of district court unification.

Unified court information system - Section 4 of Senate Bill No. 2002 allows the judicial branch to continue \$350,000 of appropriation authority from its 1999-2001 biennium general fund appropriation to the 2001-03 biennium to consolidate and integrate the East Central Judicial District's case management system with the unified court information system used by the other six judicial districts.

Status/Result

As of January 1, 2002, the judicial branch has collected \$10,200 in revenue from the \$25 indigent defense application fee. The funding is used for expenses associated with the collection of indigent defense costs required to be reimbursed.

The Supreme Court implemented the clerk of district court unification effective April 1, 2001. Of the 53 counties, 11 counties decided to transfer the costs and operations of the clerk of district court services to the state, 38 counties decided to enter into an agreement with the Supreme Court where the Supreme Court provides funding for the provision of clerk of district court services, three counties decided to provide clerk of district court services at their own expense, and one county did not make an election by the April 1, 2000, deadline and, therefore, is providing clerk of district court services at its own expense.

The Supreme Court anticipates the cost of funding clerk of district court services will not be materially different than the funding provided by the 2001 Legislative Assembly.

Pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Section 27-05.2-02, counties that entered into an agreement with the Supreme Court for clerk of district court services and counties that decided to provide clerk of district court services at their own expense must notify the Supreme Court by April 1, 2002, regarding their election for continued clerk of district court services.

The Supreme Court has begun the consolidation and integration of the East Central Judicial District's case management system with the unified court information system and anticipates the project to be completed by June 30, 2002, and within the \$350,000 appropriation.

Records management - Section 5 of Senate Bill No. 2002 encourages the judicial branch to explore opportunities to use electronic management system services provided by the Information Technology Department for enhanced records management and data storage.

The judicial branch plans on conducting an analysis of records management needs and services, including the review of enhanced records management and data storage services provided by the Information Technology Department in the second year of the 2001-03 biennium.