

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:****Senate Bill No. 2002 - Summary of Conference Committee Action**

	Base Budget	Senate Version	Conference Committee Changes	Conference Committee Version	House Version	Comparison to House
Supreme Court						
Total all funds	\$24,019,251	\$26,063,990	\$17,287	\$26,081,277	\$25,902,238	\$179,039
Less estimated income	97,793	44,129	0	44,129	44,129	0
General fund	\$23,921,458	\$26,019,861	\$17,287	\$26,037,148	\$25,858,109	\$179,039
FTE	45.50	44.50	2.50	47.00	45.00	2.00
District Courts						
Total all funds	\$104,278,299	\$123,148,432	\$2,089,867	\$125,238,299	\$126,796,716	(\$1,558,417)
Less estimated income	830,318	818,998	4,268,000	5,086,998	5,473,698	(386,700)
General fund	\$103,447,981	\$122,329,434	(\$2,178,133)	\$120,151,301	\$121,323,018	(\$1,171,717)
FTE	334.00	341.00	1.50	342.50	342.50	0.00
Judicial Conduct Commission						
Total all funds	\$1,399,862	\$1,555,505	\$25,430	\$1,580,935	\$1,591,847	(\$10,912)
Less estimated income	512,317	509,538	7,093	516,631	520,177	(3,546)
General fund	\$887,545	\$1,045,967	\$18,337	\$1,064,304	\$1,071,670	(\$7,366)
FTE	4.50	4.50	0.00	4.50	4.50	0.00
Guardianship and Conservatorship						
Total all funds	\$0	\$936,405	(\$936,405)	\$0	\$730,478	(\$730,478)
Less estimated income	0	0	0	0	0	0
General fund	\$0	\$936,405	(\$936,405)	\$0	\$730,478	(\$730,478)
FTE	0.00	6.00	(6.00)	0.00	2.00	(2.00)
Office of Guardianship						
Total all funds	\$0	\$0	\$355,000	\$355,000	\$0	\$355,000
Less estimated income	0	0	0	0	0	0
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$355,000	\$355,000	\$0	\$355,000
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bill total						
Total all funds	\$129,697,412	\$151,704,332	\$1,551,179	\$153,255,511	\$155,021,279	(\$1,765,768)
Less estimated income	1,440,428	1,372,665	4,275,093	5,647,758	6,038,004	(390,246)
General fund	\$128,256,984	\$150,331,667	(\$2,723,914)	\$147,607,753	\$148,983,275	(\$1,375,522)
FTE	384.00	396.00	(2.00)	394.00	394.00	0.00

**Senate Bill No. 2002 - Supreme Court - Conference Committee Action**

	Base Budget	Senate Version	Conference Committee Changes	Conference Committee Version	House Version	Comparison to House
Salaries and wages	\$12,363,778	\$13,419,705	\$312,228	\$13,731,933	\$13,851,861	(\$119,928)
New and vacant FTE pool	8,740,214	8,671,500	(698,527)	7,972,973	8,049,484	(76,511)
Operating expenses	2,915,259	3,106,685	28,108	3,134,793	3,134,793	
Capital assets		866,100		866,100	866,100	
Guardianship and conservatorship			375,478	375,478		375,478
Total all funds	\$24,019,251	\$26,063,990	\$17,287	\$26,081,277	\$25,902,238	\$179,039
Less estimated income	97,793	44,129	0	44,129	44,129	0
General fund	\$23,921,458	\$26,019,861	\$17,287	\$26,037,148	\$25,858,109	\$179,039
FTE	45.50	44.50	2.50	47.00	45.00	2.00

**Department 181 - Supreme Court - Detail of Conference Committee Changes**

	<b>Increases Funding for Salary Equity<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Adds Funding for Administrative Assistant Position<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Transfers Current Guardianship Positions<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Transfers Funding for 2025-27 New and Vacant FTE Pool<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Increases Funding for Operating Costs<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Total Conference Committee Changes</b>
Salaries and wages	\$303,242	\$74,147		(\$65,161)		\$312,228
New and vacant FTE pool				(698,527)		(698,527)
Operating expenses					\$28,108	28,108
Capital assets						
Guardianship and conservatorship			\$375,478			375,478
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>\$303,242</b>	<b>\$74,147</b>	<b>\$375,478</b>	<b>(\$763,688)</b>	<b>\$28,108</b>	<b>\$17,287</b>
Less estimated income	0	0	0	0	0	0
General fund	\$303,242	\$74,147	\$375,478	(\$763,688)	\$28,108	\$17,287
<b>FTE</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2.50</b>

<sup>1</sup> Funding is added from the general fund as follows for Supreme Court salary equity:

	<b><u>Senate Version</u></b>	<b><u>House Version</u></b>	<b><u>Conference Committee Version</u></b>
Supreme Court justices salaries increase of 11.1 percent and chief justice salary increase of 12.1 percent	\$200,219	\$263,605	\$263,605
Pay plan salary adjustment	0	359,784	239,856
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200,219</b>	<b>\$623,389</b>	<b>\$503,461</b>

The conference committee version provides for a pay plan salary adjustment of 2 percent. The House version provided for a pay plan salary adjustment of 3 percent.

<sup>2</sup> Funding of \$74,147 is added to increase a part-time administrative assistant position to a full-time position, the same as the House.

<sup>3</sup> The guardianship and conservatorship funding (\$375,478) and FTE positions in the judicial branch base budget are placed in an office of guardianship and conservatorship line item under the Supreme Court. The FTE attorney position relating to guardianship and conservatorship is to be transferred to the newly created Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship on July 1, 2025, pursuant to Senate Bill No. 2029. The FTE position remaining after the July 1, 2025, transfer and any unspent funding in the line item are to be transferred to the newly created Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship by April 1, 2026.

<sup>4</sup> Funding of \$65,161 for a 0.5 FTE administrative assistant position increase is removed from the Supreme Court salaries and wages line item and funding of \$698,527 is removed for the judicial branch 2025-27 new and vacant FTE pool line item as follows:

<b>General Fund</b>
New FTE positions
Funding pool line item
Supreme Court net savings
Funding pool line item from district courts
Guardianship and conservatorship funding pool line item adjustment
Net impact on Supreme Court

<sup>5</sup> Funding of \$28,108 from the general fund is added to provide a total of \$56,217 for increased miscellaneous operating costs, the same as the House.

**Senate Bill No. 2002 - District Courts - Conference Committee Action**

	Base Budget	Senate Version	Conference Committee Changes	Conference Committee Version	House Version	Comparison to House
Salaries and wages	\$79,576,340	\$90,711,201	\$1,378,482	\$92,089,683	\$92,811,632	(\$721,949)
Operating expenses	24,524,619	27,531,341	311,385	27,842,726	28,292,494	(449,768)
Capital assets		4,742,216	400,000	5,142,216	5,528,916	(386,700)
Judges' retirement	177,340	163,674		163,674	163,674	
Total all funds	\$104,278,299	\$123,148,432	\$2,089,867	\$125,238,299	\$126,796,716	(\$1,558,417)
Less estimated income	830,318	818,998	4,268,000	5,086,998	5,473,698	(386,700)
General fund	\$103,447,981	\$122,329,434	(\$2,178,133)	\$120,151,301	\$121,323,018	(\$1,171,717)
FTE	334.00	341.00	1.50	342.50	342.50	0.00

**Department 182 - District Courts - Detail of Conference Committee Changes**

	Increases Funding for Salary Equity <sup>1</sup>	Adds Funding for Juvenile Court Positions <sup>2</sup>	Transfers Funding for 2025-27 New and Vacant FTE Pool <sup>3</sup>	Adds Funding for Treatment Courts <sup>4</sup>	Adjusts Operating Funding <sup>5</sup>	Adjusts One- Time Funding <sup>6</sup>
Salaries and wages	\$1,270,821	\$173,840	(\$152,771)	\$86,592		
Operating expenses				37,900	\$273,485	
Capital assets						\$400,000
Judges' retirement						
Total all funds	\$1,270,821	\$173,840	(\$152,771)	\$124,492	\$273,485	\$400,000
Less estimated income	0	0	0	0	0	4,268,000
General fund	\$1,270,821	\$173,840	(\$152,771)	\$124,492	\$273,485	(\$3,868,000)
FTE	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Total Conference Committee Changes
Salaries and wages	\$1,378,482
Operating expenses	311,385
Capital assets	400,000
Judges' retirement	
Total all funds	\$2,089,867
Less estimated income	4,268,000
General fund	(\$2,178,133)
FTE	1.50

<sup>1</sup> Funding is added from the general fund as follows for district courts salary equity:

	Senate Version	House Version	Conference Committee Version
District court judges salaries increase of 7.7 percent	\$1,641,973	\$1,815,263	\$1,815,263
Pay plan salary adjustment	0	1,646,296	1,097,531
Total	\$1,641,973	\$3,461,559	\$2,912,794

The conference committee version provides for a pay plan salary adjustment of 2 percent. The House version provided for a pay plan salary adjustment of 3 percent.

<sup>2</sup> Funding of \$173,840 from the general fund is added by the House for 1 new FTE administrative assistant position (starting July 1, 2026) and to increase a part-time administrative assistant position to a full-time position (starting July 1, 2025), including related salary and health insurance increases. The House appropriated \$258,852 from the general fund to fully fund the 1.5 FTE positions for the entire biennium.

<sup>3</sup> Funding of \$152,771 from the general fund added by the conference committee for new FTE position salaries and wages is removed and \$137,494 is added to the Supreme Court new and vacant FTE pool line item resulting in a net

savings of \$15,277.

<sup>4</sup> Funding of \$124,492 from the general fund is added for a mental health treatment court in Mandan and a veterans court in Cass County for the second year of the biennium. The House included \$373,476 from the general fund for three new treatment courts for the full biennium. The Senate did not include funding for new treatment courts.

<sup>5</sup> Operating funding from the general fund is adjusted as follows:

	<u>Senate Version</u>	<u>House Version</u>	<u>Conference Committee Version</u>
Credit card processing and bank fees	\$200,000	\$0	\$0
Interpreters	60,000	125,500	125,500
Family mediation program	0	138,200	0
Guardian ad litem program	470,000	935,768	700,000
Miscellaneous operating adjustments	<u>168,284</u>	<u>346,269</u>	<u>346,269</u>
Total	\$898,284	\$1,545,737	\$1,171,769

<sup>6</sup> One-time funding is increased by \$400,000 to provide a total of \$1,200,000 for courtroom audio and video equipment. The House included \$1,586,700 for courtroom audio and video equipment. The conference committee amendment provides \$4,268,000 from the strategic investment and improvements fund (SIIF) for one-time funding items, including a case management system, clerk filing software, court records access system, courtroom audio and video equipment, and Cass County courtroom equipment. The House provided \$4,654,700 from SIIF and the Senate provided \$3,868,000 from the general fund for these items.

#### Senate Bill No. 2002 - Judicial Conduct Commission - Conference Committee Action

	<u>Base Budget</u>	<u>Senate Version</u>	<u>Conference Committee Changes</u>	<u>Conference Committee Version</u>	<u>House Version</u>	<u>Comparison to House</u>
Judicial Conduct Commission	\$1,399,862	\$1,555,505	\$25,430	\$1,580,935	\$1,591,847	(\$10,912)
Total all funds	\$1,399,862	\$1,555,505	\$25,430	\$1,580,935	\$1,591,847	(\$10,912)
Less estimated income	<u>512,317</u>	<u>509,538</u>	<u>7,093</u>	<u>516,631</u>	<u>520,177</u>	<u>(3,546)</u>
General fund	\$887,545	\$1,045,967	\$18,337	\$1,064,304	\$1,071,670	(\$7,366)
FTE	4.50	4.50	0.00	4.50	4.50	0.00

#### Department 183 - Judicial Conduct Commission - Detail of Conference Committee Changes

	<u>Adds Funding for Salary Equity<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Adds funding for Operating Costs<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Total Conference Committee Changes</u>
Judicial Conduct Commission	\$21,824	\$3,606	\$25,430
Total all funds	\$21,824	\$3,606	\$25,430
Less estimated income	<u>7,093</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,093</u>
General fund	\$14,731	\$3,606	\$18,337
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00

<sup>1</sup> Funding of \$21,824, including \$14,731 from the general fund and \$7,093 from other funds, is added for a pay plan adjustment of 2 percent. The House provided \$32,736 for a pay plan adjustment of 3 percent and the Senate did not include additional funding for a pay plan adjustment.

<sup>2</sup> Funding of \$3,606 from the general fund is added to provide a total increase of \$19,384 for miscellaneous operating costs, including \$7,213 from the general fund and \$12,171 from other funds, the same as the House.

**Senate Bill No. 2002 - Guardianship and Conservatorship - Conference Committee Action**

	Base Budget	Senate Version	Conference Committee Changes	Conference Committee Version	House Version	Comparison to House
Guardianship and conservatorship		\$936,405	(\$936,405)		\$730,478	(\$730,478)
Total all funds	\$0	\$936,405	(\$936,405)	\$0	\$730,478	(\$730,478)
Less estimated income	0	0	0	0	0	0
General fund	\$0	\$936,405	(\$936,405)	\$0	\$730,478	(\$730,478)
FTE	0.00	6.00	(6.00)	0.00	2.00	(2.00)

**Department 184 - Guardianship and Conservatorship - Detail of Conference Committee Changes**

	Transfers New Positions to Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship <sup>1</sup>	Transfers Current Guardianship Positions <sup>2</sup>	Total Conference Committee Changes
Guardianship and conservatorship	(\$205,927)	(\$730,478)	(\$936,405)
Total all funds	(\$205,927)	(\$730,478)	(\$936,405)
Less estimated income	0	0	0
General fund	(\$205,927)	(\$730,478)	(\$936,405)
FTE	(4.00)	(2.00)	(6.00)

<sup>1</sup> Funding of \$205,927 added by the Senate for operating costs relating to 4 new FTE guardianship and conservatorship positions is removed by the conference committee, the same as the House. The 4 new FTE positions and related salaries and operating costs for the newly created Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship are appropriated to the office in Senate Bill No. 2029, the same as the House. The reduction for related salaries and wages is from the new and vacant FTE pool line item under the Supreme Court.

<sup>2</sup> The conference committee removed the Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship from the judicial branch and appropriated \$355,000 from the general fund to the newly created Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship for the purpose of providing salaries, wages, and operations funding for an attorney position to be transferred to the office on July 1, 2025, pursuant to Senate Bill No. 2029, as approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly. The remaining guardianship and conservatorship funding (\$375,478) and FTE positions in the judicial branch budget are transferred to the office of guardianship and conservatorship line item under the Supreme Court. The FTE position remaining after July 1, 2025, and any unspent funding in the line item are to be transferred to the newly created Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship by April 1, 2026.

**Senate Bill No. 2002 - Office of Guardianship - Conference Committee Action**

	Base Budget	Senate Version	Conference Committee Changes	Conference Committee Version	House Version	Comparison to House
Guardianship and conservatorship			\$355,000	\$355,000		\$355,000
Total all funds	\$0	\$0	\$355,000	\$355,000	\$0	\$355,000
Less estimated income	0	0	0	0	0	0
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$355,000	\$355,000	\$0	\$355,000
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Department 315 - Office of Guardianship - Detail of Conference Committee Changes**

	<b>Adds Funding for FTE Position<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total Conference Committee Changes</b>
Guardianship and conservatorship	\$355,000	\$355,000
Total all funds	\$355,000	\$355,000
Less estimated income	0	0
General fund	\$355,000	\$355,000
FTE	0.00	0.00

<sup>1</sup> The conference committee appropriated \$355,000 from the general fund to the newly created Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship for the purpose of providing salaries, wages, and operations funding for an attorney position to be transferred to the office on July 1, 2025, pursuant to Senate Bill No. 2029, as approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly. The remaining guardianship and conservatorship funding (\$375,478) and FTE positions in the judicial branch budget are transferred to the office of guardianship and conservatorship line item under the Supreme Court. The FTE position remaining after the July 1, 2025, transfer and any unspent funding in the line item are to be transferred to the newly created Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship by April 1, 2026.

**Senate Bill No. 2002 - Other Changes - Conference Committee Action**

This amendment also:

- Adds a section to transfer \$200,000 from SIIF to the court facilities improvement and maintenance fund. Neither the House version nor the Senate version provided for this transfer.
- Adds a section to identify \$4,268,000 from SIIF for various one-time appropriations. The House appropriated \$4,654,700 from SIIF and the Senate appropriated the funding from the general fund for various one-time appropriations.
- Amends sections relating to the salaries of Supreme Court justices and district court judges, the same as the House.
- Adds a section to authorize the judicial branch to charge a fee as a service charge for the acceptance of a payment made by a credit or debit card, the same as the House.