

April 30, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2002

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

In place of amendment (25.0169.02003) adopted by the House, Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2002 is amended by amendment (25.0169.02004) as follows:

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the judicial branch;
2 to provide an appropriation to the office of guardianship and conservatorship; to create and
3 enact a new subsection to section 54-06-08.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to
4 credit and debit card fees; to amend and reenact sections 27-02-02 and 27-05-03 of the North
5 Dakota Century Code, relating to the salaries of justices of the supreme court and salaries of
6 district court judges; to provide for transfers; to provide for a report; and to provide an
7 exemption.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

9 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds
10 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state
11 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from other funds derived from special funds and
12 federal funds, to the judicial branch for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the judicial
13 branch, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, as follows:

14 Subdivision 1.

15 SUPREME COURT

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
18 Salaries and wages	\$12,363,778	\$1,055,927	\$13,419,705
19 New and vacant FTE pool	8,740,214	(68,714)	8,671,500

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1	Operating expenses	2,915,259	191,426	3,106,685
2	Capital assets	0	866,100	866,100
3	Total all funds	\$24,019,251	\$2,044,739	\$26,063,990
4	Less other funds	97,793	(53,664)	44,129
5	Total general fund	\$23,921,458	\$2,098,403	\$26,019,861
6	Salaries and wages	\$12,363,778	\$1,368,155	\$13,731,933
7	New and vacant FTE pool	8,740,214	(767,241)	7,972,973
8	Operating expenses	2,915,259	219,534	3,134,793
9	Office of guardianship and conservatorship	0	375,478	375,478
10	Capital assets	0	866,100	866,100
11	Total all funds	\$24,019,251	\$2,062,026	\$26,081,277
12	Less other funds	97,793	(53,664)	44,129
13	Total general fund	\$23,921,458	\$2,115,690	\$26,037,148

Subdivision 2.

DISTRICT COURTS

	Base Level	Adjustments or Enhancements	Appropriation	
18	Salaries and wages	\$79,576,340	\$11,134,861	\$90,711,201
19	Operating expenses	24,524,619	3,006,722	27,531,341
20	Capital assets	0	4,742,216	4,742,216
21	Judges' retirement	177,340	(13,666)	163,674
22	Total all funds	\$104,278,299	\$18,870,133	\$123,148,432
23	Less other funds	830,318	(11,320)	818,998
24	Total general fund	\$103,447,981	\$18,881,453	\$122,329,434
25	Salaries and wages	\$79,576,340	\$12,513,343	\$92,089,683
26	Operating expenses	24,524,619	3,318,107	27,842,726
27	Capital assets	0	5,142,216	5,142,216
28	Judges' retirement	177,340	(13,666)	163,674
29	Total all funds	\$104,278,299	\$20,960,000	\$125,238,299
30	Less other funds	830,318	4,256,680	5,086,998
31	Total general fund	\$103,447,981	\$16,703,320	\$120,151,301

1 Subdivision 3.

2 JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD

3		Adjustments or		
4		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
5	Judicial conduct commission and	\$1,399,862	\$155,643	\$1,555,505
6	—disciplinary board			
7	Total all funds	\$1,399,862	\$155,643	\$1,555,505
8	Less other funds	512,317	(2,779)	509,538
9	Total general fund	\$887,545	\$158,422	\$1,045,967
10	<u>Judicial conduct commission and</u>	<u>\$1,399,862</u>	<u>\$181,073</u>	<u>\$1,580,935</u>
11	<u>—disciplinary board</u>			
12	<u>Total all funds</u>	<u>\$1,399,862</u>	<u>\$181,073</u>	<u>\$1,580,935</u>
13	<u>Less other funds</u>	<u>512,317</u>	<u>4,314</u>	<u>516,631</u>
14	<u>Total general fund</u>	<u>\$887,545</u>	<u>\$176,759</u>	<u>\$1,064,304</u>

15 Subdivision 4.

16 ~~Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship~~

17		Adjustments or		
18		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
19	Office of guardianship and conservatorship	\$0	\$936,405	\$936,405
20	Total general fund	\$0	\$936,405	\$936,405

21 ~~Subdivision 5.~~

22 TOTAL - SECTION 1

23		Adjustments or		
24		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
25	Grand total all funds	\$129,697,412	\$22,006,920	\$151,704,332
26	Grand total other funds	1,440,428	(67,763)	1,372,665
27	Grand total general fund	\$128,256,984	\$22,074,683	\$150,331,667
28	Full-time equivalent positions	384.00	12.00	396.00
29	<u>Grand total all funds</u>	<u>\$129,697,412</u>	<u>\$23,203,099</u>	<u>\$152,900,511</u>
30	<u>Grand total other funds</u>	<u>1,440,428</u>	<u>4,207,330</u>	<u>5,647,758</u>

1	<u>Grand total general fund</u>	<u>\$128,256,984</u>	<u>\$18,995,769</u>	<u>\$147,252,753</u>
2	<u>Full-time equivalent positions</u>	<u>384.00</u>	<u>10.00</u>	<u>394.00</u>

3 **SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO THE**

4 **SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The following amounts reflect the one-time funding
5 items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act which are not included in the entity's
6 base budget for the 2027-29 biennium and which the entity shall report to the appropriations
7 committees of the seventieth legislative assembly regarding the use of this funding:

8	<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>General Fund</u>		
9	<u>Information technology equipment lease</u>	<u>\$874,216</u>		
10	<u>Case management software cloud migration</u>	<u>758,000</u>		
11	<u>Clerk filing software</u>	<u>1,250,000</u>		
12	<u>Court records access system</u>	<u>960,000</u>		
13	<u>Cloud-based storage fees</u>	<u>866,100</u>		
14	<u>Courtroom audio and video equipment</u>	<u>800,000</u>		
15	<u>Cass County courtroom equipment</u>	<u>100,000</u>		
16	<u>Total</u>	<u>\$5,608,316</u>		

17	<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
18	<u>Information technology equipment</u>	<u>\$874,216</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$874,216</u>
19	<u> lease</u>			
20	<u>Case management software cloud</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>758,000</u>	<u>758,000</u>
21	<u> migration</u>			
22	<u>Clerk filing software</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,250,000</u>	<u>1,250,000</u>
23	<u>Court records access system</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>960,000</u>	<u>960,000</u>
24	<u>Cloud-based storage fees</u>	<u>866,100</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>866,100</u>
25	<u>Courtroom audio and video equipment</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,200,000</u>	<u>1,200,000</u>
26	<u>Cass County courtroom equipment</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>
27	<u>Total</u>	<u>\$1,740,316</u>	<u>\$4,268,000</u>	<u>\$6,008,316</u>

28 **SECTION 3. NEW AND VACANT ~~FTE~~FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POOL - BUDGET**

29 **SECTION REPORT.**

- 30 1. The supreme court may not spend funding from the new and vacant ~~FTE~~full-time
31 equivalent funding pool line item in subdivision 1 of section 1 of this Act, but may

1 transfer funds from this line item to the salaries and wages line items within
2 subdivisions 1 and 2 of this Act, to the guardianship and conservatorship line item
3 within subdivision 1 of this Act, and to the judicial conduct commission and
4 disciplinary board line item within subdivision 3 of this Act, as necessary to provide
5 funding for:

- 6 a. Filling a new position from the date of hire through the end of the biennium; or
- 7 b. Salaries and wages if actual salaries and wages savings from vacant positions
8 and employee turnover, adjusted for other uses, are less than the estimate used
9 by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly in the development of the appropriation.

10 2. The supreme court shall report to the budget section regarding the use of funding in
11 the pool, including information on:

- 12 a. New **FTEfull-time equivalent** positions, including the date hired;
- 13 b. Vacant **FTEfull-time equivalent** positions, including information regarding
14 positions that become vacant and positions filled, salaries and wages savings
15 resulting from vacant positions and employee turnover, and the use of salaries
16 and wages savings for other purposes; and
- 17 c. Additional salaries and wages funding needed due to savings from vacant
18 positions being less than anticipated.

19 3. If funding in the new and vacant **FTEfull-time equivalent** pool line item is insufficient to
20 provide the necessary salaries and wages funding for the biennium, the supreme court
21 may request a deficiency appropriation from the seventieth legislative assembly.

22 **SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION.** There are appropriated any funds received by the supreme
23 court, district courts, and judicial conduct commission and disciplinary board, not otherwise
24 appropriated, pursuant to federal acts and private gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose
25 as designated in the federal acts or private gifts, grants, and donations, for the period beginning
26 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

27 **SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF GUARDIANSHIP AND**
28 **CONSERVATORSHIP.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state
29 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$355,000, or so much of the sum as may be
30 necessary, to the office of guardianship and conservatorship for the purpose of providing
31 salaries, wages, and operations funding for an attorney position transferred to the office

1 pursuant to Senate Bill No. 2029, as approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly, for the
2 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

3 **SECTION 6. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND -**
4 **COURT FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE FUND.** The office of management
5 and budget shall transfer the sum of \$200,000 from the strategic investment and improvements
6 fund to the court facilities improvement and maintenance fund during the biennium beginning
7 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

8 **SECTION 7. OTHER FUNDS - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND.**
9 The grand total other funds line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$4,268,000 from
10 the strategic investment and improvements fund for one-time projects and programs as follows:

11 Case management software cloud migration	\$758,000
12 Clerk filing software	1,250,000
13 Court records access system	960,000
14 Courtroom audio and video equipment	1,200,000
15 Cass County courtroom equipment	<u>100,000</u>
16 Total	\$4,268,000

17 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 27-02-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19 **27-02-02. Salaries of justices of supreme court.**

20 The annual salary of each justice of the supreme court is ~~one hundred seventy-nine~~
21 ~~thousand three hundred twelve dollars through June 30, 2024, and one hundred eighty-six~~
22 ~~thousand four hundred eighty-four dollars thereafter~~two hundred two thousand three hundred
23 thirty-five dollarstwo hundred seven thousand two hundred forty-nine dollars. The chief justice of
24 the supreme court is entitled to receive an additional ~~five thousand seventy-one dollars per~~
25 ~~annum through June 30, 2024, and five thousand two hundred seventy-four~~six thousand six
26 hundred eighty-oneseven thousand six hundred forty-seven dollars per annum thereafter.

27 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 27-05-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
28 amended and reenacted as follows:

29 **27-05-03. Salaries and expenses of district judges.**

30 The annual salary of each district judge is ~~one hundred sixty-four thousand five hundred~~
31 ~~thirty-two dollars through June 30, 2024, and one hundred seventy-one thousand one hundred~~

1 | thirteen dollars thereafter ~~one hundred eighty-three thousand ninety-one dollars~~ one hundred
2 | eighty-four thousand three hundred sixty-six dollars. Each district judge is entitled to travel
3 | expenses, including mileage and subsistence while engaged in the discharge of official duties
4 | outside the city in which the judge's chambers are located. The salary and expenses are
5 | payable monthly in the manner provided by law. A presiding judge of a judicial district is entitled
6 | to receive an additional ~~four thousand six hundred seventy-five~~ five thousand two hundred-
7 | two five thousand one hundred sixty-two dollars per annum through ~~June 30, 2024~~, and four
8 | thousand eight hundred sixty-two dollars thereafter.

9 | **SECTION 10.** A new subsection to section 54-06-08.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 | created and enacted as follows:

11 | The judicial branch may charge a reasonable fee not exceeding the discount charged
12 | by the credit or debit card issuer. The fee may be added to a payment as a service
13 | charge for the acceptance of a payment made by a credit or debit card. The state
14 | court administrator shall determine which nationally recognized cards will be accepted
15 | for payments made to the judicial branch under this section.

16 | **SECTION 11. EXEMPTION - TRANSFERS.** Notwithstanding section 54-16-04, the director
17 | of the office of management and budget shall transfer appropriation authority between line items
18 | in section 1 of this Act, as requested by the supreme court upon a finding by the court that the
19 | nature of the duties of the court and its staff requires the transfers to carry on properly the
20 | functions of the judicial branch of government.