

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT  
with Conference Committee Amendments  
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2002**

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

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

		Adjustments or		
	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	
16				
17				
18	Salaries and wages	\$12,363,778	\$1,368,155	\$13,731,933
19	New and vacant FTE pool	8,740,214	(767,241)	7,972,973
20	Operating expenses	2,915,259	219,534	3,134,793
21	Office of guardianship and conservatorship	0	375,478	375,478
22	Capital assets	<u>0</u>	<u>866,100</u>	<u>866,100</u>

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1	Total all funds	\$24,019,251	\$2,062,026	\$26,081,277
2	Less other funds	<u>97,793</u>	<u>(53,664)</u>	<u>44,129</u>
3	Total general fund	\$23,921,458	\$2,115,690	\$26,037,148
4	Subdivision 2.			
5	DISTRICT COURTS			
6			Adjustments or	
7		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
8	Salaries and wages	\$79,576,340	\$12,513,343	\$92,089,683
9	Operating expenses	24,524,619	3,318,107	27,842,726
10	Capital assets	0	5,142,216	5,142,216
11	Judges' retirement	<u>177,340</u>	<u>(13,666)</u>	<u>163,674</u>
12	Total all funds	\$104,278,299	\$20,960,000	\$125,238,299
13	Less other funds	<u>830,318</u>	<u>4,256,680</u>	<u>5,086,998</u>
14	Total general fund	\$103,447,981	\$16,703,320	\$120,151,301
15	Subdivision 3.			
16	JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD			
17			Adjustments or	
18		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
19	Judicial conduct commission and	<u>\$1,399,862</u>	<u>\$181,073</u>	<u>\$1,580,935</u>
20	disciplinary board			
21	Total all funds	\$1,399,862	\$181,073	\$1,580,935
22	Less other funds	<u>512,317</u>	<u>4,314</u>	<u>516,631</u>
23	Total general fund	\$887,545	\$176,759	\$1,064,304
24	Subdivision 4.			
25	TOTAL - SECTION 1			
26			Adjustments or	
27		<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
28	Grand total all funds	\$129,697,412	\$23,203,099	\$152,900,511
29	Grand total other funds	<u>1,440,428</u>	<u>4,207,330</u>	<u>5,647,758</u>
30	Grand total general fund	\$128,256,984	\$18,995,769	\$147,252,753
31	Full-time equivalent positions	384.00	10.00	394.00

1       **SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO THE**  
2 **SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The following amounts reflect the one-time funding  
3 items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act which are not included in the entity's  
4 base budget for the 2027-29 biennium and which the entity shall report to the appropriations  
5 committees of the seventieth legislative assembly regarding the use of this funding:

6 <u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
7 Information technology equipment	\$874,216	\$0	\$874,216
8 lease			
9 Case management software cloud	0	758,000	758,000
10 migration			
11 Clerk filing software	0	1,250,000	1,250,000
12 Court records access system	0	960,000	960,000
13 Cloud-based storage fees	866,100	0	866,100
14 Courtroom audio and video equipment	0	1,200,000	1,200,000
15 Cass County courtroom equipment	<u>0</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>
16 Total	\$1,740,316	\$4,268,000	\$6,008,316

17       **SECTION 3. NEW AND VACANT FTE POOL - BUDGET SECTION REPORT.**

- 18       1. The supreme court may not spend funding from the new and vacant FTE pool line  
19 item in subdivision 1 of section 1 of this Act, but may transfer funds from this line item  
20 to the salaries and wages line items within subdivisions 1 and 2 of this Act, to the  
21 guardianship and conservatorship line item within subdivision 1 of this Act, and to the  
22 judicial conduction commission and disciplinary board line item within subdivision 3 of  
23 this Act, as necessary to provide funding for:
- 24       a. Filling a new position from the date of hire through the end of the biennium; or
  - 25       b. Salaries and wages if actual salaries and wages savings from vacant positions  
26 and employee turnover, adjusted for other uses, are less than the estimate used  
27 by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly in the development of the appropriation.
- 28       2. The supreme court shall report to the budget section regarding the use of funding in  
29 the pool, including information on:
- 30       a. New full-time equivalent positions, including the date hired;

- 1           b. Vacant full-time equivalent positions, including information regarding positions  
2           that become vacant and positions filled, salaries and wages savings resulting  
3           from vacant positions and employee turnover, and the use of salaries and wages  
4           savings for other purposes; and
- 5           c. Additional salaries and wages funding needed due to savings from vacant  
6           positions being less than anticipated.
- 7           3. If funding in the new and vacant FTE pool line item is insufficient to provide the  
8           necessary salaries and wages funding for the biennium, the supreme court may  
9           request a deficiency appropriation from the seventieth legislative assembly.

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

15           **SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF GUARDIANSHIP AND**  
16 **CONSERVATORSHIP.** There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state  
17 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$355,000, or so much of the sum as may be  
18 necessary, to the office of guardianship and conservatorship for the purpose of providing  
19 salaries, wages, and operations funding for an attorney position transferred to the office  
20 pursuant to Senate Bill No. 2029, as approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly, for the  
21 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

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

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

30 Case management software cloud migration	\$758,000
31 Clerk filing software	1,250,000

1	Court records access system	960,000
2	Courtroom audio and video equipment	1,200,000
3	Cass County courtroom equipment	<u>100,000</u>
4	Total	\$4,268,000

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

7       **27-02-02. Salaries of justices of supreme court.**

8       The annual salary of each justice of the supreme court is ~~one hundred seventy-nine~~  
9 ~~thousand three hundred twelve dollars through June 30, 2024, and one hundred eighty-six~~  
10 ~~thousand four hundred eighty-four dollars thereafter~~two hundred seven thousand two hundred  
11 forty-nine dollars. The chief justice of the supreme court is entitled to receive an additional ~~five-~~  
12 ~~thousand seventy-one dollars per annum through June 30, 2024, and five thousand two-~~  
13 ~~hundred seventy-four~~seven thousand six hundred forty-seven dollars per annum thereafter.

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

16       **27-05-03. Salaries and expenses of district judges.**

17       The annual salary of each district judge is ~~one hundred sixty-four thousand five hundred-~~  
18 ~~thirty-two dollars through June 30, 2024, and one hundred seventy-one thousand one hundred-~~  
19 ~~thirteen dollars thereafter~~one hundred eighty-four thousand three hundred sixty-six dollars.  
20 Each district judge is entitled to travel expenses, including mileage and subsistence while  
21 engaged in the discharge of official duties outside the city in which the judge's chambers are  
22 located. The salary and expenses are payable monthly in the manner provided by law. A  
23 presiding judge of a judicial district is entitled to receive an additional ~~four thousand six hundred-~~  
24 ~~seventy-five~~five thousand one hundred sixty-two dollars per annum through June 30, 2024, and  
25 ~~four thousand eight hundred sixty-two dollars thereafter~~.

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

28       The judicial branch may charge a reasonable fee not exceeding the discount charged  
29 by the credit or debit card issuer. The fee may be added to a payment as a service  
30 charge for the acceptance of a payment made by a credit or debit card. The state

1           court administrator shall determine which nationally recognized cards will be accepted  
2           for payments made to the judicial branch under this section.

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