Judicial Branch
Department No. 180
2025 Senate Bill No. 2002

REVISED EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION
2025-27 BIENNIUM

Budget Summary

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Burgum budget recommendation	406.00	$165,513,155	$1,409,499	$166,922,654
Revisions - Increase (decrease)	0.00	(955,228)	(6,769)	(961,997)
Armstrong budget recommendation	**406.00**	**$164,557,927**	**$1,402,730**	**$165,960,657**
Base level	384.00	128,256,984	1,440,428	129,697,412
Increase (decrease)	22.00	$36,300,943	($37,698)	$36,263,245
Percentage increase (decrease)	5.7%	28.3%	(2.6%)	28.0%

NOTE:
More detailed information on the revised executive budget recommendation is attached as an appendix.

Selected Highlights

- ***Salary increases of up to 3 percent effective July 1, 2025, and 3 percent effective July 1, 2026***
- Health insurance increase of $250.22 per month (15.2 percent), from $1,643 to $1,893, per employee
- Adds $5.3 million of ongoing funding from the general fund for 22 new FTE positions
- Adds $2 million of ongoing funding from the general fund for a 3 percent pay plan adjustment
- Adds 2.1 million of ongoing funding from the general fund for information technology (IT) system maintenance and enhancements

Deficiency Appropriations

There are no deficiency appropriations for this agency.

Significant Audit Findings

There are no significant audit findings for this agency.

Agency Fees

As reported to the Legislative Management, pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Section 54-35-27, this agency has 15 fees. The agency did not recommend any changes to the fees, but noted the Legislative Assembly could consider increasing civil filing fees from $80 to $160 because the fees have not been increased since 1995.

Major Related Legislation

House Bill No. 1032 - Municipal Court - Provides authority for the district court to hear city ordinance cases for cities of fewer than 5,000 people and allows two or more cities to create a joint municipal court and share the operating costs.

House Bill No. 1047 - Juror counseling - Provides for the court to offer psychological counseling services to jurors who served in a trial involving extraordinarily graphic, gruesome, or emotional evidence or testimony.

House Bill No. 1310 - **Court improvement grants** - Eliminates the court improvement grants program and removes certain fees charged by the court, including for presentence investigation and prosecution costs.

House Bill No. 1328 - **School discipline** - Requires a school to exhaust all school discipline policies and procedures before referring a child to juvenile court.

House Bill No. 1347 - **Supervised treatment** - Clarifies responsibilities for district court supervised treatment programs.

House Bill No. 1417 - **Court fines and fees** - Amends law relating to probation and provides for a Legislative Management study of court fines and fees.

Senate Bill No. 2029 - Guardianship - Provides an appropriation of $18.3 million from the general fund to the judicial branch and establishes the office of guardianship and conservatorship as a division under the Supreme Court.

Senate Bill No. 2036 - Juvenile remediation - Codifies due process rights, provides a method for juvenile competency remediation, and allows the court to deflect cases based on prior judicial findings of a lack of fitness to proceed.

Senate Bill No. 2037 - Juvenile court proceedings - Amends the statutory juvenile provisions relating to age-based sex offenses, sexual offender registration, child offender registration, domestic violence laws, and criminal responsibility for juvenile offenders.

Senate Bill No. 2054 - Master jury list - Provides for the master jury list maintained by the clerk of each county to be expanded to include persons receiving unemployment compensation, child care assistance, or other public assistance, contingent on the Department of Health and Human Services receiving a state plan amendment authorizing the disclosure of those individuals receiving public assistance and child care assistance.

Senate Bill No. 2056 - Tribal arrest warrant - Allows for an arrested person to waive the right to appear before a district court judge prior to being transferred to the custody of the applicable tribal authority.

Senate Bill No. 2057 - Court fees - Increases fees charged by municipal and district courts and the Supreme Court.

NOTE:
Please see the Fiscal Impact Report for additional information regarding bills under consideration which contain either a state revenue impact, an appropriation, or a state fiscal impact.

Judicial Branch - Budget No. 180
Agency Worksheet - Senate Bill No. 2002

	Armstrong Executive Budget			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2025-27 Biennium Base Level	384.00	$128,256,984	$1,440,428	$129,697,412
2025-27 Ongoing Funding Changes				
Base payroll changes, including cost to continue salary increases and step increases in the judicial branch pay plan		$3,490,350	($114,374)	$3,375,976
Salary increase		4,277,475	30,331	4,307,806
Health insurance increase		2,425,383	18,767	2,444,150
Adds funding for judges and justices salary equity		2,078,868		2,078,868
Adds funding for pay plan 3 percent salary adjustment		2,028,177	10,639	2,038,816
Restores new and vacant FTE funding		2,455,681	23,723	2,479,404
Adds funding for accrued leave payouts		460,487	514	461,001
Adds 4.5 new juvenile court positions	4.50	829,304		829,304
Adds a new district court administrative assistant position	1.00	170,025		170,025
Adds a new district court deputy court administrator position	1.00	272,529		272,529
Adds 2 new district court programmer analyst positions	2.00	421,496		421,496
Adds 2 new district court network analyst positions	2.00	421,496		421,496
Adds a new district court technology coordinator position	1.00	196,210		196,210
Adds a new district court staff attorney position	1.00	293,625		293,625
Adds a new Supreme Court staff attorney position	1.00	293,625		293,625
Adds a new Supreme Court deputy clerk position	1.00	170,025		170,025
Increases a Supreme Court part-time administrative assistant position to full-time	0.50	65,161		65,161
Adds funding for office of guardianship and conservatorship	5.00	1,494,628		1,494,628
Adds funding for court navigator program	1.00	309,742		309,742
Adds funding for allied legal professional program	1.00	364,574		364,574
Adds funding for 3 new treatment courts		373,476		373,476
Reduces funding for judges' retirement		(13,666)		(13,666)
Adds funding for information technology (IT) system maintenance and enhancements		2,059,179		2,059,179
Adds funding for law library reference materials subscription		73,882		73,882
Adds funding for credit card processing and bank fees		293,000		293,000
Adjusts funding for operating costs		409,699	(7,298)	402,401
Adds funding for interpreters		125,500		125,500
Adds funding for county clerk of court contract		189,428		189,428
Increases funding for rural attorney recruitment program		36,000		36,000
Increases funding for the family mediation program to provide a total of $1.52 million		138,200		138,200
Adds funding for guardian ad litem program to provide a total of $2.35 million		935,768		935,768
Total ongoing funding changes	**22.00**	**$27,139,327**	**($37,698)**	**$27,101,629**
One-Time Funding Items				

Adds funding for IT equipment lease		$874,216		$874,216
Adds funding for case management system migration to cloud-based hosting		758,000		758,000
Adds funding for clerk filing software		1,250,000		1,250,000
Adds funding for problem solving court case management system		780,000		780,000
Adds funding for digital evidence management system		980,000		980,000
Adds funding for court records access system		960,000		960,000
Adds funding for cloud-based storage fees		866,100		866,100
Adds funding for courtroom audio and video systems		1,586,700		1,586,700
Adds funding for Cass County courtroom equipment		100,000		100,000
Adds funding for Coteau Room camera and projector		10,000		10,000
Adds funding to replace furniture in three judge chambers		22,500		22,500
Adds funding to replace 48 workstations and cubicles		360,000		360,000
Adds funding for copy machines		75,000		75,000
Adds funding for folding machines		72,600		72,600
Adds funding for juvenile court workload study		466,500		466,500
Total one-time funding changes	**0.00**	**$9,161,616**	**$0**	**$9,161,616**
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	**22.00**	**$36,300,943**	**($37,698)**	**$36,263,245**
2025-27 Total Funding	**406.00**	**$164,557,927**	**$1,402,730**	**$165,960,657**
Federal funds included in other funds			*$851,850*	
Total ongoing changes - Percentage of base level	*5.7%*	*21.2%*	*(2.6%)*	*20.9%*
Total changes - Percentage of base level	*5.7%*	*28.3%*	*(2.6%)*	*28.0%*