



## BILL SUMMARY

# Judicial Branch FY 17 Budget Bill HF 2457

Status of Bill: House Floor  
 Committee: Justice Systems Budget Subcommittee (6-3)  
 Appropriations (14-9)  
 Lead Democrats: Rep. T. Taylor  
 Floor Manager: Rep. Worthan  
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### Background

The fiscal year 2017 total budget appropriation for the Judicial Branch is status quo compared to fiscal year 2016, a total of \$181.7 million. There was a total of \$174.5 million appropriated in the Judicial Branch Budget Bill, SF 496, and another \$7.2 million appropriated in the Standings Budget Bill, SF 510. That Standings Bill also contained language which made some changes to the court debt collection process. That issue isn't addressed in this bill.

This bill has two line item appropriations: one for operations and the other is for the Jury and Witness Revolving Fund.

### Bill Summary

House File 2457 appropriates \$178.6 million for the operations of Iowa Courts and \$3.1 million for the Jury and Witness Fee Revolving Fund. The revolving fund is used for the reimbursement of juror and witness fees, mileage, and costs.

	Actual FY 14	Actual FY 15	Estimated FY 16	HF2457 FY 16	HF 2457 v. FY 16
<b>Judicial Branch</b>					
Operations	\$ 165,586,747	\$ 171,486,612	\$ 178,686,612	\$ 178,686,612	\$ -
Jury & Witness Fee Revolving Fund	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 310,000	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 3,100,000	\$ -
<b>Total Judicial Branch</b>	\$ 168,686,747	\$ 174,586,612	\$ 181,786,612	\$ 181,786,612	\$ -

The bill also contains the following policy language, which is the same language that was in last year's bill:

- Prohibits the Judicial Branch (JB) from duplicating current state payroll, budgeting, and accounting systems, except for the implementation of an internal accounting and recordkeeping system.
- Requires the JB to submit monthly financial statements to the fiscal division of the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) and the Department of Management. The statements must include a comparison of the dollars and percentage spent of budgeted versus actual revenues and expenditures on a cumulative basis for full-time equivalent positions and dollars.
- Requires the JB to focus efforts on collecting delinquent fines and fees.
- Specifies that it is the intent of the General Assembly that the JB operate clerk of court offices in all 99 counties and ensure that those offices are accessible to the public as much as reasonably possible.

- Requires the JB to notify the LSA prior to any intradepartmental transfer and the notice must include the rationale for the transfer.
- The JB must provide a semiannual report to the LSA specifying the amount of fines, surcharges, and court costs that have been collected using the Iowa court information system (ICIS). The JB is required to continue to share vital information with government agencies and state agencies through ICIS.
- By January 1, 2017, the JB is required to report to the General Assembly and the LSA the revenues and expenditures of the enhanced court collections fund and the court technology and modernization fund for FY 2016 as well as the planned expenditures for FY 2017. New language allows money from this fund to be used for operational costs and other miscellaneous purposes and duties.
- It is intent of the General Assembly that the JB emphasize the expansion of family treatment courts on a statewide basis.
- Allows for a civil trial to take place in a contiguous county, even if it crosses a judicial district, as long as parties agree.
- Judicial officers may waive travel reimbursement for any travel outside the county of residence of that judicial officer.
- Authorizes the Supreme Court to order judicial officers to take unpaid leave in the same manner as non-contract employees.
- States that it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Judicial Branch utilize the Iowa Communications Network or another secure electronic communications method instead of travel.

In last year's Standings Bill, there was a carve out of \$520,150 for juvenile drug courts and specified the dollar amounts for 5 different locations of juvenile drug courts. This year's budget bill doesn't contain a line item for juvenile drug courts, but it is assumed that they will be funded from this budget.