

Department of Planning and Budget

2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB536

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Convirs-Fowler

3. Committee: House Committee for Courts of Justice

4. Title: Filing an order of disposition from a criminal case in general district courts

5. Summary: The proposed bill provides that any adult criminal disposition for a misdemeanor or felony in a juvenile and domestic relations district court may be submitted to the general district court of the same territorial jurisdiction to be filed as a general district court record upon a petition filed by the victim of the offense and with the consent of the juvenile and domestic relations district court.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 42

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (see Item #8)

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (OES), the proposed bill provides that any adult criminal disposition for a misdemeanor or felony in a juvenile and domestic relations district court (JDR) may be submitted to the general district court (GDC) of the same territorial jurisdiction to be filed as a general district court record upon a petition filed by the victim of the offense and with the consent of the juvenile and domestic relations district court.

OES reports that to implement the provisions of the bill, information for cases, upon petition and approval by the court, would need to be transmitted from JDR to GDC. Any modifications to the case, which would occur in JDR according to the bill's provisions, would need to be reflected in GDC. The bill would require several system enhancements to the case management systems of the general district courts (GCMS) and juvenile and domestic relations district courts (JCMS). Currently, GCMS and JCMS do not require comprehensive interactivity, as cases tried within JDR or GDC are appealed to circuit court. The system enhancements would require the development of system connectivity between GCMS and JCMS to ensure that i) data remains in sync, ii) the "case count" for GDC cases remains unaffected (for statistical purposes), iii) codes and fields that are currently exclusive to JCMS are added to GCMS, and iv) cases originating in JDR are distinguishable from those originating in GDC. In addition, the automatic system purges that are regularly conducted by the GCMS system would need to be amended to exclude those JDR convictions retained for longer than the default 10-year period.

Other court systems that utilize data within the GCMS and JCMS, such as the Online Case Information System, would also need system enhancements to ensure proper functionality.

OES estimates a one-time cost of \$1,568,640 to complete the electronic enhancements across all affected systems it maintains. However, OES notes that the necessary enhancements cannot be completed before July 1, 2022, the effective date of the bill, as additional personnel would have to be brought onboard to perform the enhancements.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Courts

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None