



2019 SENATE BILL 458

September 27, 2019 - Introduced by Senators PETROWSKI, BEWLEY, BERNIER, LEMAHIEU, SCHACHTNER, L. TAYLOR, TESTIN and TIFFANY, cosponsored by Representatives TUSLER, TITTL, MCGUIRE, EDMING, BALLWEG, BOWEN, CROWLEY, GOYKE, NEUBAUER, PETERSEN, PETRYK, SCHRAA, SPIROS, SUMMERFIELD and ZAMARRIPA. Referred to Joint Committee on Finance.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 753.0605 of the statutes; **relating to:** adding 12 circuit court
2 branches to be allocated by the director of state courts.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill adds 12 additional circuit court branches to be allocated by the director of state courts as follows: four circuit court branches in 2020, four circuit court branches in 2021, and four circuit court branches in 2022. The director of state courts may allocate the branches to any county the director of state courts determines is in need of an additional circuit court branch if the county has passed a resolution requesting an additional circuit court branch and if the county has established or will have established by May 31 of the year in which the circuit court branch becomes effective the appropriate infrastructure to support the additional circuit court branch. The director of state courts may require any county, as a condition for receiving a circuit court branch allocation, to have established or to apply for a grant to establish a drug court.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 753.0605 of the statutes is created to read:

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1 **753.0605 Additional circuit court branches.** Notwithstanding s. 753.06,
2 the director of state courts may add additional circuit court branches as follows:

3 **(1)** By November 14, 2019, the director of state courts may add 4 additional
4 circuit court branches, to begin operation on August 1, 2020. The director of state
5 courts may allocate each branch to any county that the director of state courts
6 determines is in need of an additional circuit court branch if the county has passed
7 a resolution requesting an additional circuit court branch and the county has
8 established, or will have established by May 31, 2020, the appropriate infrastructure
9 to support an additional circuit court branch. The director of state courts may
10 require any county, as a condition for receiving a circuit court branch allocation
11 under this subsection, to have established or to apply for a grant under s. 165.95 or
12 165.955 to establish a drug court.

13 **(2)** After November 14, 2019, and before November 14, 2020, the director of
14 state courts may add 4 additional circuit court branches, to begin operation on
15 August 1, 2021. The director of state courts may allocate each branch to any county
16 that the director of state courts determines is in need of an additional circuit court
17 branch if the county has passed a resolution requesting an additional circuit court
18 branch and the county has established, or will have established by May 31, 2021, the
19 appropriate infrastructure to support an additional circuit court branch. The
20 director of state courts may require any county, as a condition for receiving a circuit
21 court branch allocation under this subsection, to have established or to apply for a
22 grant under s. 165.95 or 165.955 to establish a drug court.

23 **(3)** After November 14, 2020, and before November 14, 2021, the director of
24 state courts may add 4 additional circuit court branches, to begin operation on
25 August 1, 2022. The director of state courts may allocate each branch to any county

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1 that the director of state courts determines is in need of an additional circuit court
2 branch if the county has passed a resolution requesting an additional circuit court
3 branch and the county has established, or will have established by May 31, 2022, the
4 appropriate infrastructure to support an additional circuit court branch. The
5 director of state courts may require any county, as a condition for receiving a circuit
6 court branch allocation under this subsection, to have established or to apply for a
7 grant under s. 165.95 or 165.955 to establish a drug court.

SECTION 2. Nonstatutory provisions.

8
9 (1) ELECTION FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGESHIPS. The initial election for circuit judge
10 positions created under s. 753.0605 (1) shall be at the spring election of 2020 for a
11 term beginning on August 1, 2020, and ending on July 31, 2026. The initial election
12 for circuit judge positions created under s. 753.0605 (2) shall be at the spring election
13 of 2021 for a term beginning on August 1, 2021, and ending on July 31, 2027. The
14 initial election for circuit judge positions created under s. 753.0605 (3) shall be at the
15 spring election of 2022 for a term beginning on August 1, 2022, and ending on July
16 31, 2028.

(2) CIRCUIT COURT POSITIONS.

17
18 (a) The authorized FTE positions for the circuit courts are increased by 4.0 GPR
19 circuit court judge positions on August 1, 2020, to be funded from the appropriation
20 under s. 20.625 (1) (a), to provide one circuit court judge in each of the circuit court
21 branches created under s. 753.0605 (1).

22 (b) The authorized FTE positions for the circuit courts are increased by 4.0 GPR
23 court reporter positions on August 1, 2020, to be funded from the appropriation
24 under s. 20.625 (1) (a), to provide one court reporter in each of the circuit court
25 branches created under s. 753.0605 (1).

