



Minnesota Judicial Branch Omnibus Bill

Judiciary Policy Provisions (sections 1-4)

Allowing Filing Reciprocity in St. Louis County (section 1-2)

Proposal: Allows court filings in any St. Louis County case to be accepted at any St. Louis County courthouse, improving efficiency and convenience for court users.

Background:

- Minnesota Statute 484.51 (dating back to 1909 and last amended in 1986, before the Judicial Branch's eCourtMN transformation) requires paper filings pertaining to causes to be tried in Virginia, MN, be filed in Virginia, MN, and all paper filings pertaining to causes to be tried in Hibbing, MN, be filed in Hibbing, MN.
- Court staff in Hibbing were recently unable to process motion paperwork for individual with a child support case in Duluth due to this requirement.
- No other county in Minnesota that has multiple courthouse locations has a statutory requirement like this.
- Allowing filings to be accepted in any location in St. Louis County improves consistency, convenience, and customer service.

Removing the Two-Page Limit for Appendix A (section 3)

Proposal: Eliminates the statutory two-page limit on Appendix A notices for child support, spousal maintenance, custody, and parenting time, ensuring compliance with updated legal and digital accessibility requirements.

Background:

- Minnesota Statute 518.68 subd. 1 requires certain notices be included for all court orders addressing child support, spousal maintenance, custody, and parenting time.
- The statute limits these notices to two pages.
- Due to changes from the 2024 legislative session, additional language is required to be included in the notices.
- In order to include the new language and have the document be digitally accessible, the notice is now four pages long, violating the two-page statutory limit.

Requiring Service of Conservator Annual Reports (section 4)

Proposal: Requires conservators to serve annual reports to individuals under conservatorship, increasing transparency and accountability.

Background:

- Currently, there is no requirement in statute that a conservator serve the person subject to conservatorship with their annual reporting to the court.
- There is a statutory requirement that a guardianship serve the person subject to guardianship with their annual reporting to the court in guardianship cases.

- This proposal aligns the conservator statute with the guardianship statute so that the person subject to conservatorship and interested parties receive notice of what was reported to the court about the person subject to conservatorship's estate.

Judiciary Appropriations (Section 5)

Maintain Core Justice Operations: \$77.301 million in FY26-27 to increase judicial officer salaries by 6% in both FY26 and FY27, create an employee compensation increase pool of 6% in both FY26 and FY27, fund the employer-share of anticipated health care cost increases, and fund the increased cost of leasing office space in the Minnesota Judicial Center.

Digital Accessibility: \$5.1 million in FY 26-27 and \$1.764 million in FY 28-29 to meet new federal digital accessibility guidelines.

Justice Partner Access: \$4 million in FY 26-27 and \$800,000 in FY 28-29 to improve electronic data sharing with state and local justice partners.

Forensic Examiner Pay Increase: \$7.222 million in FY 26-27 to increase pay for contract forensic psychological examiners from \$136 per hour to \$175 per hour.

Juror Per Diem: \$18.448 million in FY 26-27 to raise the juror per diem rate from \$20/day to \$100/day and to raise juror mileage reimbursement from \$0.54/mile to \$0.67/mile (the current IRS standard mileage rate).

Cyber Security: \$3.5 million in FY 28-29 for permanent funding for the Judicial Branch Cyber Security Program.

Mandated Services Deficits: \$14.790 million in FY 28-29 to address long-term deficits in Psychological Services, Court Interpreter, and Jury programs.