

Judicial Officer Amendments
2025 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Todd D. Weiler

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill increases the number of judges.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

▸ increases the number of judges for the district court, the juvenile court, and the Court of Appeals.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

78A-1-103, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 148

78A-1-104, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 148

78A-4-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 276

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **78A-1-103** is amended to read:

78A-1-103 . Number of district court judges.

The number of district court judges is:

- (1) four district court judges in the First Judicial District;
- (2) ~~[14]~~ 15 district court judges in the Second Judicial District;
- (3) ~~[32]~~ 33 district court judges in the Third Judicial District;
- (4) ~~[13]~~ 14 district court judges in the Fourth Judicial District;
- (5) ~~[seven]~~ eight district court judges in the Fifth Judicial District;
- (6) ~~[two]~~ three district court judges in the Sixth Judicial District;
- (7) three district court judges in the Seventh Judicial District; and
- (8) three district court judges in the Eighth Judicial District.

32 Section 2. Section **78A-1-104** is amended to read:

33 **78A-1-104 . Number of juvenile court judges.**

34 The number of juvenile court judges is:

- 35 (1) [~~two~~] three juvenile court judges in the First Judicial District;
- 36 (2) six juvenile court judges in the Second Judicial District;
- 37 (3) nine juvenile court judges in the Third Judicial District;
- 38 (4) [~~seven~~] eight juvenile court judges in the Fourth Judicial District;
- 39 (5) three juvenile court judges in the Fifth Judicial District;
- 40 (6) two juvenile court judges in the Sixth Judicial District;
- 41 (7) two juvenile court judges in the Seventh Judicial District; and
- 42 (8) two juvenile court judges in the Eighth Judicial District.

43 Section 3. Section **78A-4-102** is amended to read:

44 **78A-4-102 . Number of judges -- Terms -- Presiding judge -- Associate presiding**
45 **judge -- Filing fees.**

- 46 (1)(a) The Court of Appeals consists of [~~seven~~] eight judges.
- 47 (b) The term of appointment to office as a judge of the Court of Appeals is until the first
48 general election held more than three years after the effective date of the appointment.
- 49 (c) After the first term of appointment under Subsection (1)(b), the term of office of a
50 judge of the Court of Appeals is six years and commences on the first Monday in
51 January, next following the date of election.
- 52 (d) A judge whose term expires may serve, upon request of the Judicial Council, until a
53 successor is appointed and qualified.
- 54 (2)(a) The Court of Appeals shall sit and render judgment in panels of three judges.
- 55 (b) Assignment to panels shall be by random rotation of all judges of the Court of
56 Appeals.
- 57 (c) The Court of Appeals by rule shall provide for the selection of a chair for each panel.
- 58 (d) The Court of Appeals may not sit en banc.
- 59 (3)(a) The judges of the Court of Appeals shall elect a presiding judge from among the
60 members of the court by majority vote of all judges.
- 61 (b) The term of office of the presiding judge is two years and until a successor is elected.
- 62 (c) A presiding judge of the Court of Appeals may serve in that office no more than two
63 successive terms.
- 64 (d) The Court of Appeals may by rule provide for an acting presiding judge to serve in
65 the absence or incapacity of the presiding judge.

- 66 (e) The presiding judge of the Court of Appeals shall receive \$2,000 per annum of
67 additional compensation for the period served as presiding judge.
- 68 (4)(a) The presiding judge may be removed from the office of presiding judge by
69 majority vote of all judges of the Court of Appeals.
- 70 (b) In addition to the duties of a judge of the Court of Appeals, the presiding judge shall:
- 71 (i) administer the rotation and scheduling of panels;
72 (ii) act as liaison with the Supreme Court;
73 (iii) call and preside over the meetings of the Court of Appeals; and
74 (iv) carry out duties prescribed by the Supreme Court and the Judicial Council.
- 75 (5)(a) The judges of the Court of Appeals shall elect an associate presiding judge from
76 among the members of the court by majority vote of all judges.
- 77 (b) The associate presiding judge of the Court of Appeals shall receive \$1,000 per
78 annum as additional compensation for the period served as associate presiding judge.
- 79 (6) Filing fees for the Court of Appeals are the same as for the Supreme Court.

80 Section 4. **Effective Date.**

81 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.