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Judicial Modifications
2026 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Jordan D. Teuscher
Senate Sponsor: Brady Brammer

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses issues related to the judiciary.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ addresses the ballot language for a retention election;
- ▶ addresses the transfer of an action from the district court to the Business and Chancery Court;
- ▶ addresses the assignment of district court judges to cases a municipality files, appeals, or transfers to the district court;
- ▶ modifies the requirements for a three-judge panel in the district court;
- ▶ modifies the publication requirements for a final decision or order from the Business and Chancery Court;
- ▶ amends the tentative decision requirements for the Business and Chancery Court;
- ▶ contingent on statutory provisions being held invalid or enjoined:
 - establishes the Constitutional Court (court);
 - addresses the postjudgment interest rate for judgments of the court;
 - addresses a retention election for a judge of the court;
 - adds a judge of the court to the definition of "public official" for Title 63G, Chapter 23, Property Donated to State by Public Official;
- addresses salaries for judges of the court;
- provides that the court is not geographically divided into districts;
- provides that the court consists of three judges;
- amends the membership of the Judicial Council to include a member from the court;

- 28 • amends provisions regarding the administration of the courts to address the creation of
29 the court;
- 30 • addresses a judicial hiring freeze for judges of the court;
- 31 • amends the jurisdiction of the district court to allow a district court judge or Court of
32 Appeals judge to preside over an action of the court for purposes of disqualification
33 and recusal;
- 34 • provides that the court is a trial court with statewide jurisdiction;
- 35 • addresses the organization and status of the court;
- 36 • addresses the jurisdiction of the court;
- 37 • addresses the transfer of an action to the court;
- 38 • addresses the administration, staff, and management of the court;
- 39 • allows a district court judge or Court of Appeals judge to be appointed to the court
40 without vacating the judge's appointment to the district court or Court of Appeals;
- 41 • addresses the location and facilities of the court;
- 42 • addresses the selection process for judges of the court, including the creation of the
43 Constitutional Court Nominating Commission; and
- 44 • makes changes to provisions regarding judgments, mileage, and lis pendens to address
45 the creation of the court;
- 46 ▸ clarifies the right to appeal for an injunction of a state law; and
- 47 ▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

48 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

49 None

50 **Other Special Clauses:**

51 This bill provides a special effective date.

52 This bill provides revisor instructions.

53 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

54 AMENDS:

55 **15-1-4**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 394

56 **20A-12-201**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 39

57 **63G-23-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 158

58 **67-8-2**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 394

59 **78A-1-101**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 394

60 **78A-1-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 394

61 **78A-2-104**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 394

- 62 **78A-2-107**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 394
63 **78A-2-108**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 394
64 **78A-2-110**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 394
65 **78A-2-113**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 394
66 **78A-2-301**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 291
67 **78A-4-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 276
68 **78A-4-103**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Second Special Session, Chapter 3
69 **78A-5-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 426
70 **78A-5-103**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3
71 **78A-5-105**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3
72 **78A-5a-301**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 394
73 **78A-5a-302**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 394
74 **78A-10a-202**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 250
75 **78A-10a-203**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 250 and last amended by
76 Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 250
77 **78A-11-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 394
78 **78B-3a-102**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 401
79 **78B-5-202**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 17
80 **78B-5-206**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 401
81 **78B-5-1002**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 456
82 **78B-6-1303**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 401

ENACTS:

- 84 **78A-1-103.7**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
85 **78A-5b-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
86 **78A-5b-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
87 **78A-5b-103**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
88 **78A-5b-104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
89 **78A-5b-105**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
90 **78A-5b-201**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
91 **78A-5b-202**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
92 **78A-5b-203**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
93 **78A-5b-204**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
94 **78A-5b-205**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
95 **78A-5b-206**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

96 **78A-10a-601**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

97 **78A-10a-602**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

98 **78A-10a-603**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

99 **78A-10a-604**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

100 **78A-10a-605**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

101 **78A-10a-606**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

102 **78A-10a-607**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

103 REPEALS AND REENACTS:

104 **78A-5-102.7**, as enacted in 2026 H.B. 392

105 **Utah Code Sections Affected by Revisor Instructions:**

106 **78A-5-102.7**, as enacted in 2026 H.B. 392

107

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

109 Section 1. Section **15-1-4** is amended to read:

110 **15-1-4 . Interest on judgments.**

111 (1) As used in this section[, "federal"] :

112 (a) "Court" means:

113 (i) the district court;

114 (ii) the justice court;

115 (iii) the Business and Chancery Court; or

116 (iv) the Constitutional Court if Title 78A, Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court, takes
 117 effect as described in Section 78A-5b-102.

118 (b) "Federal postjudgment interest rate" means the interest rate established for the
 119 federal court system under 28 U.S.C. Sec. 1961, as amended.

120 (2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), a judgment rendered on a lawful contract
 121 shall conform to the contract and shall bear the interest agreed upon by the parties,
 122 which shall be specified in the judgment.

123 (b) A judgment rendered on a deferred deposit loan subject to Title 7, Chapter 23, Check
 124 Cashing and Deferred Deposit Lending Registration Act, shall bear interest at the rate
 125 imposed under Subsection (3)(a) on an amount not exceeding the sum of:

126 (i) the total of the principal balance of the deferred deposit loan;

127 (ii) interest at the rate imposed by the deferred deposit loan agreement for a period
 128 not exceeding 10 weeks as provided in Subsection 7-23-401(4);

129 (iii) costs;

- 130 (iv) attorney fees; and
- 131 (v) other amounts allowed by law and ordered by the court.
- 132 (3)(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, or as governed by Subsection (4), all other
- 133 final civil and criminal judgments of [~~the district court, the justice court, and the~~
- 134 ~~Business and Chancery Court~~] a court shall bear interest at the federal postjudgment
- 135 interest rate as of January 1 of each year, plus 2%.
- 136 (b) The [~~postjudgment interest rate~~] interest rate described in Subsection (3)(a) that is in
- 137 effect at the time of the judgment shall remain the interest rate for the duration of the
- 138 judgment.
- 139 (c) The interest on criminal judgments shall be calculated on the total amount of the
- 140 judgment.
- 141 (d) Interest paid on state revenue shall be deposited in accordance with Section
- 142 63A-3-505.
- 143 (e) Interest paid on revenue to a county or municipality shall be paid [~~to~~] into the general
- 144 fund of the county or municipality.
- 145 (4) A judgment under \$10,000 in an action regarding the purchase of goods and services
- 146 shall bear interest from the date on which the [~~district court, the justice court, or the~~
- 147 ~~Business and Chancery Court~~] court enters the judgment at 10% plus the federal
- 148 postjudgment interest rate in effect on January 1 of the year in which the judgment is
- 149 entered.

150 Section 2. Section **20A-12-201** is amended to read:

151 **20A-12-201 . Judicial appointees -- Retention elections.**

- 152 (1)(a) Each judicial appointee to a court is subject to an unopposed retention election at
- 153 the first general election held more than three years after the judge or justice was
- 154 appointed.
- 155 (b) After the first retention election:
- 156 (i) each Supreme Court justice shall be on the regular general election ballot for an
- 157 unopposed retention election every tenth year; and
- 158 (ii) each judge of other courts shall be on the regular general election ballot for an
- 159 unopposed retention election every sixth year.
- 160 (2)(a) Each justice or judge of a court of record who wishes to retain office shall, in the
- 161 year the justice or judge is subject to a retention election:
- 162 (i) file a declaration of candidacy with the lieutenant governor, or with the county
- 163 clerk in the candidate's county of residence, within the period beginning on July 1

- 164 and ending at 5 p.m. on July 15 in the year of a regular general election; and
 165 (ii) pay a filing fee of \$50.
- 166 (b)(i) Each justice court judge who wishes to retain office shall, in the year the justice
 167 court judge is subject to a retention election:
- 168 (A) file a declaration of candidacy with the lieutenant governor, or with the county
 169 clerk in the candidate's county of residence, within the period beginning on
 170 July 1 and ending at 5 p.m. on July 15 in the year of a regular general election;
 171 and
- 172 (B) pay a filing fee of \$25 for each judicial office.
- 173 (ii) If a justice court judge is appointed or elected to more than one judicial office, the
 174 declaration of candidacy shall identify all of the courts included in the same
 175 general election.
- 176 (iii) If a justice court judge is appointed or elected to more than one judicial office,
 177 filing a declaration of candidacy in one county in which one of those courts is
 178 located is valid for the courts in any other county.
- 179 (3)(a) The lieutenant governor shall, no later than August 31 of each regular general
 180 election year:
- 181 (i) transmit a certified list containing the names of the justices of the Supreme Court,
 182 judges of the Court of Appeals, ~~and~~ judges of the Business and Chancery Court,
 183 and judges of the Constitutional Court if Title 78A, Chapter 5b, Constitutional
 184 Court, takes effect as described in Section 78A-5b-102, declaring their candidacy
 185 to the county clerk of each county; and
- 186 (ii) transmit a certified list containing the names of judges of other courts declaring
 187 their candidacy to the county clerk of each county in the geographic division in
 188 which the judge filing the declaration holds office.
- 189 (b) Each county clerk shall place the names of justices and judges standing for retention
 190 election:
- 191 (i) in the nonpartisan section of the ballot; and
 192 (ii) in accordance with Section 20A-6-109.
- 193 (4)(a) At the general election, the ballots shall contain:
- 194 (i) at the beginning of the judicial retention section of the ballot, the following statement:
 195 "Visit judges.utah.gov to learn about the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's
 196 recommendations for each judge"; and
- 197 (ii) for each justice or judge standing for a retention election in the county, the

198 following question: "Shall [insert name of justice or judge] be retained in the
 199 office of [insert name of office and the applicable court or jurisdiction]? Yes () or
 200 No ()."

201 [(ii) as to each justice or judge of any court to be voted on in the county, the following
 202 question:

203 "Shall _____ (name of justice or judge) be retained in the
 204 office of _____? (name of office, such as "Justice of the Supreme
 205 Court of Utah"; "Judge of the Court of Appeals of Utah"; "Judge of the Business and Chancery
 206 Court of Utah"; "Judge of the District Court of the Third Judicial District"; "Judge of the
 207 Juvenile Court of the Fourth Juvenile Court District"; "Justice Court Judge of (name of county)
 208 County or (name of municipality)")

209 Yes ()

210 No ()."]

211 (b) If a justice court exists by means of an interlocal agreement under Section 78A-7-102,
 212 the ballot question for the judge shall include the name of that court.

213 (5)(a) If the justice or judge receives more yes votes than no votes, the justice or judge is
 214 retained for the term of office provided by law.

215 (b) If the justice or judge does not receive more yes votes than no votes, the justice or
 216 judge is not retained, and a vacancy exists in the office on the first Monday in
 217 January after the regular general election.

218 (6) A justice or judge not retained is ineligible for appointment to the office for which the
 219 justice or judge was defeated until after the expiration of that term of office.

220 (7)(a) If a justice court judge is standing for retention for one or more judicial offices in
 221 a county in which the judge is a county justice court judge or a municipal justice
 222 court judge in a town or municipality of the fourth or fifth class, as described in
 223 Section 10-2-301, or any combination thereof, the election officer shall place the
 224 judge's name on the county ballot only once for all judicial offices for which the
 225 judge seeks to be retained.

226 (b) If a justice court judge is standing for retention for one or more judicial offices in a
 227 municipality of the first, second, or third class, as described in Section 10-2-301, the
 228 election officer shall place the judge's name only on the municipal ballot for the
 229 voters of the municipality that the judge serves.

230 Section 3. Section **63G-23-102** is amended to read:

231 **63G-23-102 . Definitions.**

232 As used in this chapter:

- 233 (1) "Public official" means, except as provided in Subsection (3), the same as that term is
 234 defined in Section 36-11-102.
- 235 (2) "Public official" includes a judge or justice of:
- 236 (a) the Utah Supreme Court;
- 237 (b) the Utah Court of Appeals;
- 238 (c) a district court;
- 239 (d) a juvenile court; ~~[or]~~
- 240 (e) the Business and Chancery Court~~[-]~~ ; or
- 241 (f) the Constitutional Court if Title 78A, Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court, takes effect
 242 as described in Section 78A-5b-102.
- 243 (3) "Public official" does not include a local official or an education official as defined in
 244 Section 36-11-102.

245 Section 4. Section **67-8-2** is amended to read:

246 **67-8-2 . Salaries of judges established annually in appropriations act -- Bases of**
 247 **salaries -- Additional compensation.**

248 [~~(1) The salaries of judges of courts of record, as described in Section 78A-1-101, shall be~~
 249 ~~set annually by the Legislature in an appropriations act.]~~

250 [~~(2) Judicial salaries shall be based on the following percentages of the salary of a district~~
 251 ~~court judge:]~~

252 [~~(a) juvenile court judges: 100%;]~~

253 [~~(b) Business and Chancery Court judges: 100%;]~~

254 [~~(c) Court of Appeals judges: 105%; and]~~

255 [~~(d) justices of the Supreme Court: 110%.]~~

256 (1) The Legislature shall set annually, in an appropriations act, the salaries of judges of a
 257 court of record described in Section 78A-1-101.

258 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), a judicial salary for a judge of a court of record
 259 shall be based on the following percentage of the salary for a district court judge:

260 (a) 100% for a juvenile court judge;

261 (b) 100% for a Business and Chancery Court judge;

262 (c) 105% for a Constitutional Court judge if Title 78A, Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court,
 263 takes effect as described in Section 78A-5b-102;

264 (d) 105% for a Court of Appeals judge; and

265 (e) 110% for a Supreme Court justice.

- 266 (3)(a) If a district court judge is a Constitutional Court judge, the judge's salary for the
267 Constitutional Court is 5% of the salary for a district court judge during the time
268 period in which the judge remains a district court judge.
- 269 (b) If a Court of Appeals judge is a Constitutional Court judge, the judge's salary for the
270 Constitutional Court is 5% of the salary for a district court judge during the time
271 period in which the judge remains a Court of Appeals judge.
- 272 (c) Except as provided in this Subsection (3), a judge of a court of record may not collect
273 a salary for more than one court of record.
- 274 [~~(3)~~] (4)(a) A salary described in Subsection (2) does not include additional
275 compensation provided for a presiding judge or associate presiding judge under:
276 (i) Section 78A-3-101;
277 (ii) Section 78A-4-102;
278 (iii) Section 78A-5-106;
279 (iv) Section 78A-5a-202;
280 (v) Section 78A-5b-203; or
281 [~~(v)~~] (vi) Section 78A-6-203.
- 282 (b) Compensation described in Subsection [~~(3)(a)~~] (4)(a) does not constitute a salary for
283 purposes of Utah Constitution, Article VIII, Section 14.
284 Section 5. Section **78A-1-101** is amended to read:
285 **78A-1-101 . Courts of this state -- Courts of record.**
- 286 (1) The following are the courts of this state:
287 (a) the Supreme Court;
288 (b) the Court of Appeals;
289 (c) the Business and Chancery Court;
290 (d) the Constitutional Court if Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court, takes effect as described
291 in Section 78A-5b-102;
292 [~~(d)~~] (e) the district courts;
293 [~~(e)~~] (f) the juvenile courts; and
294 [~~(f)~~] (g) the justice courts.
- 295 (2) All courts are courts of record, except the justice courts, which are courts not of record.
296 Section 6. Section **78A-1-102** is amended to read:
297 **78A-1-102 . Trial courts of record -- Geographical divisions.**
- 298 (1) The district and juvenile courts are divided into eight geographical divisions:
299 (a) First Judicial District, which includes Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties;

- 300 (b) Second Judicial District, which includes Weber, Davis, and Morgan Counties;
 301 (c) Third Judicial District, which includes Salt Lake, Summit, and Tooele Counties;
 302 (d) Fourth Judicial District, which includes Utah, Wasatch, Juab, and Millard Counties;
 303 (e) Fifth Judicial District, which includes Beaver, Iron, and Washington Counties;
 304 (f) Sixth Judicial District, which includes Garfield, Kane, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and
 305 Wayne Counties;
 306 (g) Seventh Judicial District, which includes Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan
 307 Counties; and
 308 (h) Eighth Judicial District, which includes Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties.

309 (2) The Business and Chancery Court is not divided into geographical divisions.

310 (3) If Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court, takes effect as described in Section 78A-5b-102, the
 311 Constitutional Court is not divided into geographical divisions.

312 Section 7. Section **78A-1-103.7** is enacted to read:

313 **78A-1-103.7 . Number of Constitutional Court judges.**

314 If Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court, takes effect as described in Section 78A-5b-102, the
 315 Constitutional Court shall consist of three judges.

316 Section 8. Section **78A-2-104** is amended to read:

317 **78A-2-104 . Judicial Council -- Creation -- Members -- Terms and election --**
 318 **Responsibilities -- Reports -- Guardian Ad Litem Oversight Committee.**

319 (1) The Judicial Council is composed of:

- 320 (a) the chief justice of the Supreme Court;
 321 (b) one member elected by the justices of the Supreme Court;
 322 (c) one member elected by the judges of the Court of Appeals;
 323 (d) one member elected by the judges of the Business and Chancery Court;
 324 (e) one member elected by the judges of the Constitutional Court if Chapter 5b,
 325 Constitutional Court, takes effect as described in Section 78A-5b-102;
 326 [~~(e)~~] (f) six members elected by the judges of the district courts;
 327 [~~(f)~~] (g) three members elected by the judges of the juvenile courts;
 328 [~~(g)~~] (h) three members elected by the justice court judges; and
 329 [~~(h)~~] (i) a member or ex officio member of the Board of Commissioners of the Utah State
 330 Bar who is an active member of the Utah State Bar in good standing at the time of
 331 election by the Board of Commissioners.

332 (2) The Judicial Council shall have a seal.

333 (3)(a) The chief justice of the Supreme Court shall act as presiding officer of the Judicial

- 334 Council and chief administrative officer for the courts.
- 335 (b) The chief justice shall vote only in the case of a tie.
- 336 (4)(a) All members of the Judicial Council shall serve for three-year terms.
- 337 (b) If a Judicial Council member should die, resign, retire, or otherwise fail to complete
- 338 a term of office, the appropriate constituent group shall elect a member to complete
- 339 the term of office.
- 340 (c) In courts having more than one member, the members shall be elected to staggered
- 341 terms.
- 342 (d) The individual elected by the Board of Commissioners under Subsection [~~(+)(h)~~] (1)(i)
- 343 may complete a three-year term of office on the Judicial Council even though the
- 344 individual ceases to be a member or ex officio member of the Board of
- 345 Commissioners.
- 346 (e) The individual elected by the Board of Commissioners under Subsection [~~(+)(h)~~] (1)(i)
- 347 shall be an active member of the Utah State Bar in good standing for the entire term
- 348 of the Judicial Council.
- 349 (f) Elections are held under rules made by the Judicial Council.
- 350 (5)(a) The Judicial Council is responsible for the development of uniform administrative
- 351 policy for the courts throughout the state.
- 352 (b) The presiding officer of the Judicial Council is responsible for the implementation of
- 353 the policies developed by the Judicial Council and for the general management of the
- 354 courts, with the aid of the state court administrator.
- 355 (c) The Judicial Council has authority and responsibility to:
- 356 (i) establish and assure compliance with policies for the operation of the courts,
- 357 including uniform rules and forms; and
- 358 (ii) publish and submit to the governor, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, and
- 359 the Legislature an annual report of the operations of the courts, which shall
- 360 include financial and statistical data and may include suggestions and
- 361 recommendations for legislation.
- 362 (6) The Judicial Council shall establish standards for the operation of the courts of the state,
- 363 including facilities, court security, support services, and staff levels for judicial and
- 364 support personnel.
- 365 (7) The Judicial Council shall by rule:
- 366 (a) establish the time and manner for destroying court records, including computer
- 367 records; and

- 368 (b) establish retention periods for court records.
- 369 (8)(a) Consistent with the requirements of judicial office and security policies, the
370 Judicial Council shall establish procedures to govern the assignment of state vehicles
371 to public officers of the judicial branch.
- 372 (b) The vehicles shall be marked in a manner consistent with Section 41-1a-407 and may
373 be assigned for unlimited use, within the state only.
- 374 (9)(a) The Judicial Council shall:
- 375 (i) advise judicial officers and employees concerning ethical issues; and
376 (ii) establish procedures for issuing informal and formal advisory opinions on ethical
377 issues.
- 378 (b) Compliance with an informal opinion is evidence of good faith compliance with the
379 Code of Judicial Conduct.
- 380 (c) A formal opinion constitutes a binding interpretation of the Code of Judicial Conduct.
- 381 (10)(a) The Judicial Council shall establish written procedures authorizing the presiding
382 officer of the Judicial Council to appoint judges of courts of record by special or
383 general assignment to serve temporarily in another level of court in a specific court or
384 generally within that level.
- 385 (b) The appointment under Subsection (10)(a) shall be:
- 386 (i) for a specific period of time; and
387 (ii) reported to the Judicial Council.
- 388 (c) The Judicial Council shall develop the procedures described in this Subsection (10)
389 in accordance with Subsection 78A-2-107(2) regarding the temporary appointment of
390 judges.
- 391 (11)(a) The Judicial Council may by rule designate municipalities in addition to those
392 designated by statute as a location of a trial court of record.
- 393 (b) There shall be at least one court clerk's office open during regular court hours in each
394 county.
- 395 (c) Any trial court of record may hold court in any municipality designated as a location
396 of a court of record.
- 397 (12) The Judicial Council shall by rule determine whether the administration of a court is
398 the obligation of the Administrative Office of the Courts or whether the Administrative
399 Office of the Courts should contract with local government for court support services.
- 400 (13) The Judicial Council may by rule direct that a district court location be administered
401 from another court location within the county.

- 402 (14)(a) The Judicial Council shall:
- 403 (i) establish the Office of Guardian Ad Litem in accordance with [~~Title 78A, Chapter~~
- 404 ~~2, Part 8, Guardian Ad Litem~~] Chapter 2, Part 8, Guardian Ad Litem; and
- 405 (ii) establish and supervise a Guardian Ad Litem Oversight Committee.
- 406 (b) The Guardian Ad Litem Oversight Committee described in Subsection (14)(a)(ii)
- 407 shall oversee the Office of Guardian Ad Litem, established under Subsection
- 408 (14)(a)(i), and assure that the Office of Guardian Ad Litem complies with state and
- 409 federal law, regulation, policy, and court rules.

410 (15) The Judicial Council shall establish and maintain, in cooperation with the Office of

411 Recovery Services within the Department of Health and Human Services, the part of the

412 state case registry that contains records of each support order established or modified in

413 the state on or after October 1, 1998, as is necessary to comply with the Social Security

414 Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 654a.

415 Section 9. Section **78A-2-107** is amended to read:

416 **78A-2-107 . Court administrator -- Powers, duties, and responsibilities.**

417 Under the general supervision of the presiding officer of the Judicial Council, and within

418 the policies established by the [~~the~~]Judicial Council:

- 419 (1) the state court administrator shall:
- 420 (a) organize and administer all of the nonjudicial activities of the courts;
- 421 (b) assign, supervise, and direct the work of the nonjudicial officers of the courts;
- 422 (c) implement the standards, policies, and rules established by the Judicial Council;
- 423 (d) formulate and administer a system of personnel administration, including in-service
- 424 training programs;
- 425 (e) prepare and administer the state judicial budget, fiscal, accounting, and procurement
- 426 activities for the operation of the courts of record;
- 427 (f) assist justice courts in budgetary, fiscal, and accounting procedures;
- 428 (g) conduct studies of the business of the courts, including the preparation of
- 429 recommendations and reports relating to the studies;
- 430 (h) develop uniform procedures for the management of court business, including the
- 431 management of court calendars;
- 432 (i) maintain liaison with the governmental and other public and private groups having an
- 433 interest in the administration of the courts;
- 434 (j) establish uniform policy concerning vacations and sick leave for judges and
- 435 nonjudicial officers of the courts;

- 436 (k) establish uniform hours for court sessions throughout the state;
- 437 (l) when necessary for administrative reasons, change the county for trial of any case if
- 438 no party to the litigation files timely objections to this change;
- 439 (m)(i) organize and administer a program of continuing education for judges and
- 440 support staff, including training for justice court judges; and
- 441 (ii) ensure that any training or continuing education described in Subsection (1)(m)(i)
- 442 complies with Title 63G, Chapter 22, State Training and Certification
- 443 Requirements;
- 444 (n) provide for an annual meeting for each level of the courts of record and the annual
- 445 judicial conference; and
- 446 (o) perform other duties as assigned by the presiding officer of the Judicial Council; and
- 447 (2) with the consent of the presiding officer of the Judicial Council, the state court
- 448 administrator may:
- 449 (a) call and appoint a justice or judge of a court of record to serve temporarily as a judge
- 450 of the Court of Appeals, the Business and Chancery Court, a district court, or a
- 451 juvenile court; and
- 452 (b) set reasonable compensation for the service of a justice or judge under Subsection
- 453 (2)(a).

454 Section 10. Section **78A-2-108** is amended to read:

455 **78A-2-108 . Assistants for state court administrator -- Appointment of trial court**

456 **executives.**

- 457 (1) The state court administrator, with the approval of the presiding officer of the Judicial
- 458 Council, is responsible for the establishment of positions and salaries of assistants as
- 459 necessary to enable the state court administrator to perform the powers and duties vested
- 460 in the state court administrator by this chapter, including the positions of appellate court
- 461 administrator, business and chancery court administrator, district court administrator,
- 462 juvenile court administrator, and justice court administrator.
- 463 (2) The state court administrator shall appoint an appellate court administrator, a business
- 464 and chancery court administrator, a district court administrator, a juvenile court
- 465 administrator, and a justice court administrator with the concurrence of the respective
- 466 boards as established by the Judicial Council.
- 467 (3) If Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court, takes effect as described in Section 78A-5b-102, the
- 468 state court administrator shall, with the approval of the presiding officer of the Judicial
- 469 Council, establish a salary and position for a constitutional court administrator.

- 470 [~~(3)~~] (4)(a) The district court administrator, with the concurrence of the presiding judge
 471 of a district or the district court judge in single judge districts, may appoint a trial
 472 court executive in each district.
- 473 (b) The trial court executive may appoint, subject to budget limitations, necessary
 474 support personnel including clerks, research clerks, secretaries, and other persons
 475 required to carry out the work of the court.
- 476 (c) The trial court executive shall supervise the work of all nonjudicial court staff and
 477 serve as administrative officer of the district.

478 [~~(4)~~] (5) Administrators and assistants appointed under this section are known collectively
 479 as the Administrative Office of the Courts.

480 Section 11. Section **78A-2-110** is amended to read:

481 **78A-2-110 . Databases for judicial boards.**

- 482 (1) As used in this section, "judicial board" means any judicial branch board, commission,
 483 council, committee, working group, task force, study group, advisory group, or other
 484 body with a defined limited membership that is created to operate for more than six
 485 months by:
- 486 (a) the constitution;
 487 (b) statute;
 488 (c) judicial order;
 489 (d) any justice or judge;
 490 (e) the Judicial Council;
 491 (f) the state court administrator~~[-];~~ ;
 492 (g) a district court administrator~~[-];~~ ;
 493 (h) a trial court executive~~[- or -]~~ ;
 494 (i) a business and chancery court administrator;
 495 (j) a constitutional court administrator if Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court, takes effect as
 496 described in Section 78A-5b-102; or
 497 [~~(g)~~] (k) any clerk or administrator in the judicial branch of state government.
- 498 (2) The Judicial Council shall designate an individual from the Judicial Council's staff to
 499 maintain a computerized database containing information about all judicial boards.
- 500 (3) The individual designated to maintain the database shall:
- 501 (a) ensure that the database contains:
 502 (i) the name of the judicial board;
 503 (ii) the statutory or constitutional authority for the creation of the judicial board;

- 504 (iii) the court or other judicial entity under whose jurisdiction the judicial board
505 operates or with which the judicial board is affiliated, if any;
- 506 (iv) the name, address, gender, telephone number, and county of each individual
507 currently serving on the judicial board, along with a notation of all vacant or
508 unfilled positions;
- 509 (v) the title of the position held by the individual who appointed each member of the
510 judicial board;
- 511 (vi) the length of the term to which each member of the judicial board was appointed
512 and the month and year that each judicial board member's term expires;
- 513 (vii) the organization, interest group, profession, local government entity, or
514 geographic area that the member of the judicial board represents, if any;
- 515 (viii) whether or not the judicial board allocates state or federal funds and the amount
516 of those funds allocated during the last fiscal year;
- 517 (ix) whether the judicial board is a policy board or an advisory board;
- 518 (x) whether or not the judicial board has or exercises rulemaking authority; and
- 519 (xi) any compensation and expense reimbursement that members of the executive
520 board are authorized to receive;
- 521 (b) make the information contained in the database available to the public upon request;
- 522 (c) cooperate with other entities of state government to publish the data or useful
523 summaries of the data;
- 524 (d) prepare, publish, and distribute an annual report by April 1 of each year that
525 includes, as of March 1 of that year:
- 526 (i) the total number of judicial boards;
- 527 (ii) the name of each of those judicial boards and the court, council, administrator,
528 executive, or clerk under whose jurisdiction the executive board operates or with
529 which the judicial board is affiliated, if any;
- 530 (iii) for each court, council, administrator, executive, or clerk, the total number of
531 judicial boards under the jurisdiction of or affiliated with that court, council,
532 administrator, executive, or clerk;
- 533 (iv) the total number of members for each of those judicial boards;
- 534 (v) whether each board is a policymaking board or an advisory board and the total
535 number of policy boards and the total number of advisory boards; and
- 536 (vi) the compensation, if any, paid to the members of each of those judicial boards;
537 and

- 538 (e) distribute copies of the report described in Subsection (3)(d) to:
- 539 (i) the chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court;
- 540 (ii) the state court administrator;
- 541 (iii) the governor;
- 542 (iv) the president of the Utah Senate;
- 543 (v) the speaker of the Utah House;
- 544 (vi) the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel; and
- 545 (vii) any other persons who request a copy of the annual report.

546 Section 12. Section **78A-2-113** is amended to read:

547 **78A-2-113 . Judicial hiring freeze authorized.**

- 548 (1) As used in this section, "General Fund budget deficit" means a situation where General
- 549 Fund appropriations made by the Legislature for a fiscal year exceed the estimated
- 550 revenues adopted by the Executive Appropriations Committee of the Legislature for the
- 551 General Fund in that fiscal year.
- 552 (2) During a General Fund budget deficit, the governor, president of the Senate, speaker of
- 553 the House of Representatives, and chief justice of the Supreme Court, may, by
- 554 unanimous vote, implement a judicial hiring freeze for judicial vacancies for:
- 555 (a) a juvenile court district with three or more juvenile court judges;
- 556 (b) a district court district with three or more district court judges;
- 557 (c) all Business and Chancery Court judges;
- 558 (d) all Constitutional Court judges if Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court, takes effect as
- 559 described in Section 78A-5b-102;
- 560 ~~[(d)] (e)~~ all appellate court judges; or
- 561 ~~[(e)] (f)~~ any combination of Subsections (2)(a) through ~~[(d)] (e)~~.
- 562 (3) In implementing a judicial hiring freeze, the governor, president of the Senate, speaker
- 563 of the House, and chief justice of the Supreme Court shall:
- 564 (a) establish the length of that hiring freeze; and
- 565 (b) ensure that the hiring freeze lasts at least 90 days, but not longer than the last day of
- 566 the annual general session of the Legislature.

567 Section 13. Section **78A-2-301** is amended to read:

568 **78A-2-301 . Civil fees of the courts of record -- Courts complex design.**

- 569 (1)(a) The fee for filing any civil complaint or petition invoking the jurisdiction of a
- 570 court of record not governed by another subsection is \$375.
- 571 (b) The fee for filing a complaint or petition is:

- 572 (i) \$90 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader exclusive of court costs,
573 interest, and attorney fees is \$2,000 or less;
- 574 (ii) \$200 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader exclusive of court costs,
575 interest, and attorney fees is greater than \$2,000 and less than \$10,000;
- 576 (iii) \$375 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader is \$10,000 or more;
- 577 (iv) except as provided in Subsection (1)(b)(v), \$325 if the petition is filed for an
578 action described in Title 81, Chapter 4, Dissolution of Marriage;
- 579 (v) \$35 for a petition for temporary separation described in Section 81-4-104;
- 580 (vi) \$125 if the petition is for removal from the Sex, Kidnap, and Child Abuse
581 Offender Registry under Section 53-29-204, 53-29-205, or 53-29-206; and
- 582 (vii) \$35 if the petition is for guardianship and the prospective ward is the biological
583 or adoptive child of the petitioner.
- 584 (c) The fee for filing a small claims affidavit is:
- 585 (i) \$60 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader exclusive of court costs,
586 interest, and attorney fees is \$2,000 or less;
- 587 (ii) \$100 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader exclusive of court costs,
588 interest, and attorney fees is greater than \$2,000, but less than \$7,500; and
- 589 (iii) \$185 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader exclusive of court costs,
590 interest, and attorney fees is \$7,500 or more.
- 591 (d) The fee for filing a counter claim, cross claim, complaint in intervention, third party
592 complaint, or other claim for relief against an existing or joined party other than the
593 original complaint or petition is:
- 594 (i) \$55 if the claim for relief exclusive of court costs, interest, and attorney fees is
595 \$2,000 or less;
- 596 (ii) \$165 if the claim for relief exclusive of court costs, interest, and attorney fees is
597 greater than \$2,000 and less than \$10,000;
- 598 (iii) \$170 if the original petition is filed under Subsection (1)(a), the claim for relief is
599 \$10,000 or more, or the party seeks relief other than monetary damages; and
- 600 (iv) \$130 if the original petition is filed for an action described in Title 81, Chapter 4,
601 Dissolution of Marriage.
- 602 (e) The fee for filing a small claims counter affidavit is:
- 603 (i) \$50 if the claim for relief exclusive of court costs, interest, and attorney fees is
604 \$2,000 or less;
- 605 (ii) \$70 if the claim for relief exclusive of court costs, interest, and attorney fees is

- 606 greater than \$2,000, but less than \$7,500; and
607 (iii) \$120 if the claim for relief exclusive of court costs, interest, and attorney fees is
608 \$7,500 or more.
- 609 (f) The fee for depositing funds under Section 57-1-29 when not associated with an
610 action already before the court is determined under Subsection (1)(b) based on the
611 amount deposited.
- 612 (g) The fee for filing a petition is:
- 613 (i) \$240 for trial de novo of an adjudication of the justice court or of the small claims
614 department; and
- 615 (ii) \$80 for an appeal of a municipal administrative determination in accordance with
616 Section 10-3-703.7.
- 617 (h) The fee for filing a notice of appeal, petition for appeal of an interlocutory order, or
618 petition for writ of certiorari is \$240.
- 619 (i) The fee for filing a petition for expungement is \$150.
- 620 (j)(i) Fifteen dollars of the fees established by Subsections (1)(a) through (i) shall be
621 allocated to and between the Judges' Contributory Retirement Trust Fund and the
622 Judges' Noncontributory Retirement Trust Fund, as provided in Title 49, Chapter
623 17, Judges' Contributory Retirement Act, and Title 49, Chapter 18, Judges'
624 Noncontributory Retirement Act.
- 625 (ii) Four dollars of the fees established by Subsections (1)(a) through (i) shall be
626 allocated by the state treasurer to be deposited into the restricted account,
627 Children's Legal Defense Account, as provided in Section 51-9-408.
- 628 (iii) Five dollars of the fees established under Subsections (1)(a) through (e), (1)(g),
629 and (1)(s) shall be allocated to and deposited with the Dispute Resolution Account
630 as provided in Section 78B-6-209.
- 631 (iv) Thirty dollars of the fees established by Subsections (1)(a), (1)(b)(iii) and (iv),
632 (1)(d)(iii) and (iv), (1)(g)(ii), (1)(h), and (1)(i) shall be allocated by the state
633 treasurer to be deposited into the restricted account, Court Security Account, as
634 provided in Section 78A-2-602.
- 635 (v) Twenty dollars of the fees established by Subsections (1)(b)(i) and (ii), (1)(d)(ii)
636 and (1)(g)(i) shall be allocated by the state treasurer to be deposited into the
637 restricted account, Court Security Account, as provided in Section 78A-2-602.
- 638 (k) The fee for filing a judgment, order, or decree of a court of another state or of the
639 United States is \$35.

- 640 (l) The fee for filing a renewal of judgment in accordance with Section 78B-6-1801 is
641 50% of the fee for filing an original action seeking the same relief.
- 642 (m) The fee for filing probate or child custody documents from another state is \$35.
- 643 (n)(i) The fee for filing an abstract or transcript of judgment, order, or decree of the
644 State Tax Commission is \$30.
- 645 (ii) The fee for filing an abstract or transcript of judgment of a court of law of this
646 state or a judgment, order, or decree of an administrative agency, commission,
647 board, council, or hearing officer of this state or of its political subdivisions other
648 than the State Tax Commission, is \$50.
- 649 (o) The fee for filing a judgment by confession without action under Section 78B-5-205
650 is \$35.
- 651 (p) The fee for filing an award of arbitration for confirmation, modification, or vacation
652 under Title 78B, Chapter 11, Utah Uniform Arbitration Act, that is not part of an
653 action before the court is \$35.
- 654 (q) The fee for filing a petition or counter-petition to modify a domestic relations order
655 other than a protective order or stalking injunction is \$100.
- 656 (r) The fee for filing any accounting required by law is:
- 657 (i) \$15 for an estate valued at \$50,000 or less;
- 658 (ii) \$30 for an estate valued at \$75,000 or less but more than \$50,000;
- 659 (iii) \$50 for an estate valued at \$112,000 or less but more than \$75,000;
- 660 (iv) \$90 for an estate valued at \$168,000 or less but more than \$112,000; and
- 661 (v) \$175 for an estate valued at more than \$168,000.
- 662 (s) The fee for filing a demand for a civil jury is \$250.
- 663 (t) The fee for filing a notice of deposition in this state concerning an action pending in
664 another state under Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 30 is \$35.
- 665 (u) The fee for filing documents that require judicial approval but are not part of an
666 action before the court is \$35.
- 667 (v) The fee for a petition to open a sealed record is \$35.
- 668 (w) The fee for a writ of replevin, attachment, execution, or garnishment is \$50 in
669 addition to any fee for a complaint or petition.
- 670 (x)(i) The fee for a petition for authorization for a minor to marry required by Section
671 81-2-304 is \$5.
- 672 (ii) The fee for a petition for emancipation of a minor provided in Title 80, Chapter 7,
673 Emancipation, is \$50.

- 674 (y) The fee for a certificate issued under Section 26B-8-128 is \$8.
- 675 (z) The fee for a certified copy of a document is \$4 per document plus 50 cents per page.
- 676 (aa) The fee for an exemplified copy of a document is \$6 per document plus 50 cents per
677 page.
- 678 (bb) The fee for filing a notice to convene a three-judge panel described in Section
679 78A-5-102.7 is \$1,500.
- 680 ~~[(bb)]~~ (cc) The Judicial Council shall, by rule, establish a schedule of fees for copies of
681 documents and forms and for the search and retrieval of records under Title 63G,
682 Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act.[-] Fees under
683 Subsection ~~[(1)(bb) and (ee)]~~ (1)(cc) and (dd) shall be credited to the court as a
684 reimbursement of expenditures.
- 685 ~~[(ee)]~~ (dd) The Judicial Council may, by rule, establish a reasonable fee to allow
686 members of the public to conduct a limited amount of searches on the Xchange
687 database without having to pay a monthly subscription fee.
- 688 ~~[(dd)]~~ (ee) There is no fee for services or the filing of documents not listed in this section
689 or otherwise provided by law.
- 690 ~~[(ee)]~~ (ff) Except as provided in this section, all fees collected under this section are paid
691 to the General Fund. Except as provided in this section, all fees shall be paid at the
692 time the clerk accepts the pleading for filing or performs the requested service.
- 693 ~~[(ff)]~~ (gg) The filing fees under this section may not be charged to the state, the state's
694 agencies, or political subdivisions filing or defending any action. In judgments
695 awarded in favor of the state, its agencies, or political subdivisions, except the Office
696 of Recovery Services, the court shall order the filing fees and collection costs to be
697 paid by the judgment debtor. The sums collected under this Subsection ~~[(1)(ff)]~~
698 (1)(gg) shall be applied to the fees after credit to the judgment, order, fine, tax, lien,
699 or other penalty and costs permitted by law.
- 700 (2)(a)(i) From March 17, 1994, until June 30, 1998, the state court administrator shall
701 transfer all revenues representing the difference between the fees in effect after
702 May 2, 1994, and the fees in effect before February 1, 1994, as dedicated credits
703 to the Division of Facilities Construction and Management Capital Projects Fund.
- 704 (ii)(A) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(a)(ii)(B), the Division of Facilities
705 Construction and Management shall use up to \$3,750,000 of the revenue
706 deposited into the Capital Projects Fund under this Subsection (2)(a) to design
707 and take other actions necessary to initiate the development of a courts

- 708 complex in Salt Lake City.
- 709 (B) If the Legislature approves funding for construction of a courts complex in
710 Salt Lake City in the 1995 Annual General Session, the Division of Facilities
711 Construction and Management shall use the revenue deposited into the Capital
712 Projects Fund under this Subsection (2)(a)(ii) to construct a courts complex in
713 Salt Lake City.
- 714 (C) After the courts complex is completed and all bills connected with its
715 construction have been paid, the Division of Facilities Construction and
716 Management shall use any money remaining in the Capital Projects Fund under
717 this Subsection (2)(a)(ii) to fund the Vernal District Court building.
- 718 (iii) The Division of Facilities Construction and Management may enter into
719 agreements and make expenditures related to this project before the receipt of
720 revenues provided for under this Subsection (2)(a)(iii).
- 721 (iv) The Division of Facilities Construction and Management shall:
- 722 (A) make those expenditures from unexpended and unencumbered building funds
723 already appropriated to the Capital Projects Fund; and
- 724 (B) reimburse the Capital Projects Fund upon receipt of the revenues provided for
725 under this Subsection (2).
- 726 (b) After June 30, 1998, the state court administrator shall ensure that all revenues
727 representing the difference between the fees in effect after May 2, 1994, and the fees
728 in effect before February 1, 1994, are transferred to the Division of Finance for
729 deposit in the restricted account.
- 730 (c) The Division of Finance shall deposit all revenues received from the state court
731 administrator into the restricted account created by this section.
- 732 (d)(i) From May 1, 1995, until June 30, 1998, the state court administrator shall
733 transfer \$7 of the amount of a fine or bail forfeiture paid for a violation of Title
734 41, Motor Vehicles, in a court of record to the Division of Facilities Construction
735 and Management Capital Projects Fund. The division of money pursuant to
736 Section 78A-5-110 shall be calculated on the balance of the fine or bail forfeiture
737 paid.
- 738 (ii) After June 30, 1998, the state court administrator or a municipality shall transfer
739 \$7 of the amount of a fine or bail forfeiture paid for a violation of Title 41, Motor
740 Vehicles, in a court of record to the Division of Finance for deposit in the
741 restricted account created by this section. The division of money pursuant to

742 Section 78A-5-110 shall be calculated on the balance of the fine or bail forfeiture
743 paid.

744 (3)(a) There is created within the General Fund a restricted account known as the State
745 Courts Complex Account.

746 (b) The Legislature may appropriate money from the restricted account to the state court
747 administrator for the following purposes only:

748 (i) to repay costs associated with the construction of the court complex that were
749 funded from sources other than revenues provided for under this Subsection

750 (3)(b)(i); and

751 (ii) to cover operations and maintenance costs on the court complex.

752 Section 14. Section **78A-4-102** is amended to read:

753 **78A-4-102 . Number of judges -- Terms -- Presiding judge -- Associate presiding**
754 **judge -- Filing fees.**

755 (1)(a) The Court of Appeals consists of seven judges.

756 (b) The term of appointment to office as a judge of the Court of Appeals is until the first
757 general election held more than three years after the effective date of the appointment.

758 (c) After the first term of appointment under Subsection (1)(b), the term of office of a
759 judge of the Court of Appeals is six years and commences on the first Monday in
760 January, next following the date of election.

761 (d) A judge whose term expires may serve, upon request of the Judicial Council, until a
762 successor is appointed and qualified.

763 (e) If Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court, takes effect as described in Section 78A-5b-102,
764 and a judge of the Court of Appeals is appointed to the Constitutional Court and does
765 not vacate the judge's appointment to the Court of Appeals as described in Section
766 78A-5b-201, the appointment to the Constitutional Court does not modify the judge's
767 term of office described in this Subsection (1) for the judge's appointment to the
768 Court of Appeals.

769 (2)(a) The Court of Appeals shall sit and render judgment in panels of three judges.

770 (b) Assignment to panels shall be by random rotation of all judges of the Court of
771 Appeals.

772 (c) The Court of Appeals by rule shall provide for the selection of a chair for each panel.

773 (d) The Court of Appeals may not sit en banc.

774 (3)(a) The judges of the Court of Appeals shall elect a presiding judge from among the
775 members of the court by majority vote of all judges.

- 776 (b) The term of office of the presiding judge is two years and until a successor is elected.
 777 (c) A presiding judge of the Court of Appeals may serve in that office no more than two
 778 successive terms.
 779 (d) The Court of Appeals may by rule provide for an acting presiding judge to serve in
 780 the absence or incapacity of the presiding judge.
 781 (e) The presiding judge of the Court of Appeals shall receive \$2,000 per annum of
 782 additional compensation for the period served as presiding judge.
- 783 (4)(a) The presiding judge may be removed from the office of presiding judge by
 784 majority vote of all judges of the Court of Appeals.
- 785 (b) In addition to the duties of a judge of the Court of Appeals, the presiding judge shall:
 786 (i) administer the rotation and scheduling of panels;
 787 (ii) act as liaison with the Supreme Court;
 788 (iii) call and preside over the meetings of the Court of Appeals; and
 789 (iv) carry out duties prescribed by the Supreme Court and the Judicial Council.
- 790 (5)(a) The judges of the Court of Appeals shall elect an associate presiding judge from
 791 among the members of the court by majority vote of all judges.
 792 (b) The associate presiding judge of the Court of Appeals shall receive \$1,000 per
 793 annum as additional compensation for the period served as associate presiding judge.
- 794 (6) Filing fees for the Court of Appeals are the same as for the Supreme Court.
- 795 Section 15. Section **78A-4-103** is amended to read:
 796 **78A-4-103 . Jurisdiction of Court of Appeals.**
- 797 (1) As used in this section, "adjudicative proceeding" does not include a proceeding under
 798 Title 63G, Chapter 2, Part 4, Appeals, that precedes judicial review under Section
 799 63G-2-404.
- 800 (2) The Court of Appeals has jurisdiction to issue all extraordinary writs and to issue all
 801 writs and process necessary:
 802 (a) to carry into effect the judgments, orders, and decrees of the Court of Appeals; or
 803 (b) in aid of the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals.
- 804 (3) The Court of Appeals has original appellate jurisdiction, including original appellate
 805 jurisdiction of an interlocutory appeal, over:
 806 (a)(i) except as provided in Subsection 78A-3-102(4)(a)(i), a final agency action, as
 807 described in Section 63G-4-403, originating from:
 808 (A) a formal adjudicative proceeding of a state agency;
 809 (B) a special adjudicative proceeding, as described in Section 19-1-301.5; or

- 810 (C) a hearing before a local school board or the State Board of Education as
811 described in Section 53G-11-515; or
- 812 (ii) except as provided in Subsection 78A-3-102(4)(a)(ii), an appeal from the district
813 court review of an informal adjudicative proceeding of an agency;
- 814 (b) appeals from the district court review of:
- 815 (i) adjudicative proceedings of agencies of political subdivisions of the state or other
816 local agencies; and
- 817 (ii) a challenge to agency action under Section 63G-3-602;
- 818 (c) appeals from the juvenile courts;
- 819 (d) interlocutory appeals from any court of record in criminal cases, except those
820 involving a charge of a first degree or capital felony;
- 821 (e) appeals from a court of record in criminal cases, except those involving a conviction
822 or charge of a first degree felony or capital felony;
- 823 (f) appeals from orders on petitions for extraordinary writs sought by persons who are
824 incarcerated or serving any other criminal sentence, except for petitions constituting a
825 challenge to a conviction of or the sentence for a first degree or capital felony;
- 826 (g) appeals from the orders on petitions for extraordinary writs challenging the decisions
827 of the Board of Pardons and Parole except in cases involving a first degree or capital
828 felony;
- 829 (h) appeals from district court involving domestic relations cases, including, but not
830 limited to, divorce, annulment, property division, child custody, support, parent-time,
831 visitation, adoption, and paternity;
- 832 (i) appeals from the Utah Military Court; and
- 833 (j) cases transferred to the Court of Appeals from the Supreme Court.
- 834 (4) The Court of Appeals does not have appellate jurisdiction over an appeal of an
835 injunctive order described in Section 78B-5-1002.
- 836 (5) Notwithstanding Subsection (3), the Court of Appeals upon its own motion only and by
837 the vote of four judges of the court may certify to the Supreme Court for original
838 appellate review and determination any matter over which the Court of Appeals has
839 original appellate jurisdiction.
- 840 (6) The Court of Appeals shall comply with the requirements of Title 63G, Chapter 4,
841 Administrative Procedures Act, in the Court of Appeals's review of an agency
842 adjudicative proceeding.
- 843 (7) A Court of Appeals judge may sit as a member of a panel for the Constitutional Court if:

- 844 (a) Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court, takes effect as described in Section 78A-5b-102;
 845 (b) the Court of Appeals judge is designated by the presiding officer of the Judicial
 846 Council to sit as a member of a panel as described in Section 78A-5a-202; and
 847 (c) a Constitutional Court judge is unable to sit on the panel due to recusal or
 848 disqualification.

849 Section 16. Section **78A-5-102** is amended to read:

850 **78A-5-102 . Jurisdiction of the district court -- Appeals.**

- 851 (1) Except as otherwise provided by the Utah Constitution or by statute, the district court
 852 has original jurisdiction in all matters civil and criminal.
- 853 (2) A district court judge may:
- 854 (a) issue all extraordinary writs and other writs necessary to carry into effect the district
 855 court judge's [-]orders, judgments, and decrees; [~~and~~]
- 856 (b) preside over an action for which the Business and Chancery Court has jurisdiction if:
 857 (i) the district court judge is designated by the presiding officer of the Judicial
 858 Council to preside over an action in the Business and Chancery Court as described
 859 in Section 78A-1-103.5; and
 860 (ii) a Business and Chancery Court judge is unable to preside over the action due to
 861 recusal or disqualification[-] ; and
- 862 (c) sit as a member of a panel for the Constitutional Court if:
 863 (i) Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court, takes effect as described in Section 78A-5b-102;
 864 (ii) the district court judge is designated by the presiding officer of the Judicial
 865 Council to sit as a member of a panel as described in Section 78A-5a-202; and
 866 (iii) a Constitutional Court judge is unable to sit on the panel due to recusal or
 867 disqualification.
- 868 (3) The district court has jurisdiction:
- 869 (a) over matters of lawyer discipline consistent with the rules of the Supreme Court;
 870 (b) over all matters properly filed in the circuit court [~~prior to~~] before July 1, 1996;
 871 (c) to enforce foreign protective orders as described in Subsection 78B-7-303(8);
 872 (d) to enjoin a violation of Title 58, Chapter 37, Utah Controlled Substances Act;
 873 (e) over a petition seeking to terminate parental rights as described in Section 81-13-205;
 874 (f) except as provided in Subsection 78A-6-103(2)(a)(xiv) or (xv), over an adoption
 875 proceeding; and
 876 (g) to issue a declaratory judgment as described in Title 78B, Chapter 6, Part 4,
 877 Declaratory Judgments.

- 878 (4) The district court has appellate jurisdiction over judgments and orders of the justice
879 court as outlined in Section 78A-7-118 and small claims appeals filed in accordance
880 with Section 78A-8-106.
- 881 (5) The district court has jurisdiction to review:
- 882 (a) a municipal administrative proceeding as described in Section 10-3-703.7;
- 883 (b) a decision resulting from a formal adjudicative proceeding by the State Tax
884 Commission as described in Section 59-1-601;
- 885 (c) except as provided in Section 63G-4-402, a final agency action resulting from an
886 informal adjudicative proceeding as described in Title 63G, Chapter 4,
887 Administrative Procedures Act; and
- 888 (d) by trial de novo, a final order of the Department of Transportation resulting from
889 formal and informal adjudicative proceedings under Title 72, Chapter 7, Part 2,
890 Junkyard Control Act.
- 891 (6) The district court has original and exclusive jurisdiction over an action brought under
892 Title 63G, Chapter 7, Governmental Immunity Act of Utah.
- 893 (7) The district court has exclusive jurisdiction to modify a juvenile court's permanent
894 custody and guardianship order as described in Subsection 78A-6-357(3)(e)(ii).
- 895 (8) Notwithstanding Section 78A-7-106, the district court has original jurisdiction over a
896 class B misdemeanor, a class C misdemeanor, an infraction, or a violation of an
897 ordinance for which a justice court has original jurisdiction under Section 78A-7-106 if:
- 898 (a) there is no justice court with territorial jurisdiction;
- 899 (b) the offense occurred within the boundaries of the municipality in which the district
900 courthouse is located and that municipality has not formed, or has formed and
901 dissolved, a justice court; or
- 902 (c) the offense is included in an indictment or information covering a single criminal
903 episode alleging the commission of a felony or a class A misdemeanor by an
904 individual who is 18 years old or older.
- 905 (9) If a district court has jurisdiction in accordance with Subsection (4), (8)(a), or (8)(b), the
906 district court has jurisdiction over an offense listed in Subsection 78A-7-106(2) even if
907 the offense is committed by an individual who is 16 or 17 years old.
- 908 (10) The district court has subject matter jurisdiction over an action under Title 78B,
909 Chapter 7, Part 2, Child Protective Orders, if the juvenile court transfers the action to the
910 district court.
- 911 (11)(a) The district court has subject matter jurisdiction over a criminal action that the

- 912 justice court transfers to the district court.
- 913 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection 78A-7-106(1), the district court has original jurisdiction
 914 over any refiled case of a criminal action transferred to the district court if the district
 915 court dismissed the transferred case without prejudice.
- 916 (12) If the juvenile court has concurrent jurisdiction under Subsection 78A-6-104(1)(a)(i)
 917 over a parentage action filed in the district court, the district court may transfer
 918 jurisdiction over the parentage action to the juvenile court.
- 919 (13) The district court shall transfer an action to the Business and Chancery Court if:
- 920 (a) the district court determines transfer is required or appropriate under Utah Rules of
 921 Civil Procedure, Rule 42; and
- 922 (b) the action meets the jurisdictional requirements of the Business and Chancery Court.
- 923 [~~13~~] (14) The Supreme Court and Court of Appeals have jurisdiction over an appeal from
 924 a final order, judgment, and decree of the district court as described in Sections
 925 78A-3-102 and 78A-4-103.

926 *The following section is affected by a revisor instruction at the end of this bill.*

927 Section 17. Section **78A-5-102.7** is repealed and reenacted to read:

928 **78A-5-102.7 . Three-judge panel in the district court -- Requirements.**

- 929 (1) As used in this section:
- 930 (a) "Panel" means a panel of three district court judges that is convened under this
 931 section to hear and decide an action.
- 932 (b)(i) "State entity" means the state or any agency, department, board, or commission
 933 of the state.
- 934 (ii) "State entity" includes the Legislature and any committee of the Legislature.
- 935 (c) "State official" means:
- 936 (i) a member of the Legislature;
- 937 (ii) the governor;
- 938 (iii) the lieutenant governor;
- 939 (iv) a member of the governor's cabinet;
- 940 (v) the state auditor;
- 941 (vi) the state treasurer; or
- 942 (vii) the attorney general.
- 943 (2)(a) A party to a civil action may file a notice in the district court that a panel of three
 944 district court judges shall be convened to hear and decide the civil action if the civil
 945 action:

- 946 (i) is challenging the constitutionality of a state statute or legislation, a provision of
947 the Utah Constitution, an action or inaction of the Legislature, an executive order,
948 an administrative rule, or an inaction by the executive branch;
949 (ii) is seeking a declaratory judgment or injunctive relief; and
950 (iii) is brought against a state entity or a state official in the state official's capacity.
951 (b) The time periods described in Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 42, apply to a
952 notice described in this Subsection (2).
953 (c) A notice to convene a panel that was filed before the effective date of this bill and
954 met the requirements of this section and Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 42, at
955 the time the notice was filed is valid.
956 (3)(a) Upon the filing of a notice under Subsection (2), a panel of three district court
957 judges shall hear and decide, by majority decision, the civil action in accordance with
958 this section.
959 (b) Each judge on a panel described in Subsection (3)(a) shall be:
960 (i) selected at random; and
961 (ii) from a different judicial district than the other judges on the panel.
962 (4) The panel shall adjudicate any challenge as to whether the notice to convene the panel
963 complied with the requirements of this section and Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule
964 42.
965 (5)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b) or (c), a chief judge from the panel shall
966 conduct all proceedings in an action before the panel.
967 (b) A panel shall sit en banc for:
968 (i) an adjudication of a notice to convene the panel as described in Subsection (4);
969 (ii) a discovery dispute between the parties that involves a constitutional issue or
970 right;
971 (iii) a trial;
972 (iv) an order for an injunction or temporary restraining order; or
973 (v) a motion that would dispose of the action or any claim or defense in the action.
974 (c) Upon a party's request, or by majority vote of the panel, the panel may sit en banc for
975 any issue before the panel.
976 (d) A judge on a panel may concur or dissent from any decision for which the panel sits
977 en banc.
978 (6)(a) Title 78B, Chapter 3a, Venue for Civil Actions, does not apply to an action before
979 a panel.

- 980 (b) Any requirement in the Utah Code to file or bring an action in a specific district or
 981 county does not apply to an action before a panel.
- 982 (7)(a) Before March 7, 2026, the Judicial Council shall:
- 983 (i) by rule, create a process by which a district court judge is assigned to a panel by
 984 random selection, including any reassignment of a district court judge on a panel
 985 due to disqualification, recusal, or a change of judge as a matter of right; and
- 986 (ii) establish and maintain a list of judges who the Judicial Council determines are
 987 qualified to serve on a panel.
- 988 (b) The list established under Subsection (7)(a) shall consist of at least 50% of the
 989 district court judges from each district.
- 990 (c) The Judicial Council shall post the list described in Subsection (7)(a) on the website
 991 for the Utah state courts with information on the dates and number of times that a
 992 judge has served on a panel.
- 993 (8) The Judicial Council shall hire a coordinator and staff to assist any panel convened
 994 under this section.

995 Section 18. Section **78A-5-103** is amended to read:

996 **78A-5-103 . District court case management.**

- 997 (1) As used in this section:
- 998 (a) "Municipal case" means a criminal case:
- 999 (i) filed in a district court by a city attorney on behalf of a municipality;
 1000 (ii) appealed from a municipal justice court to a district court; or
 1001 (iii) transferred to a district court by a municipal justice court.
- 1002 (b) "Municipality" means the same as that term is defined in Section 10-1-104.
- 1003 (c) "Municipality's principal office" means the primary location where the municipality
 1004 conducts official administrative business.
- 1005 [~~4~~] (2) The district court of each district shall develop systems of case management.
- 1006 [~~2~~] (3) The case management systems developed by a district court shall:
- 1007 (a) ensure judicial accountability for the just and timely disposition of cases; and
 1008 (b) provide for each judge a full judicial [~~work load~~] workload that accommodates
 1009 differences in the subject matter or complexity of cases assigned to different judges.
- 1010 [~~3~~] (4)(a) A district court may establish divisions within the court for the efficient
 1011 management of different types of cases.[–]
- 1012 (b) The existence of divisions within the court may not:
- 1013 [~~a~~] (i) affect the jurisdiction of the court nor the validity of court orders; or

- 1014 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) impede public access to the courts.
- 1015 (5)(a)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b), management of municipal cases,
- 1016 the presiding judge of each judicial district shall:
- 1017 (A) assign at least one judge to hear a municipality's municipal cases;
- 1018 (B) ensure that the number of judges assigned to hear a municipality's municipal
- 1019 cases does not exceed one judge for every 500 municipal cases that the
- 1020 municipality files, appeals, or transfers in the calendar year; and
- 1021 (C) except as provided in Subsection (5)(a)(iii), ensure that each municipal case is
- 1022 heard in the closest possible location to the municipality.
- 1023 (ii) The location described in Subsection (5)(a)(i)(C) shall be measured by driving
- 1024 distance to the municipality's principal office.
- 1025 (iii) A municipal case may be heard in a location other than the location described in
- 1026 Subsection (5)(a)(i)(C) if the presiding judge finds good cause for the municipal
- 1027 case to be heard in a different location.
- 1028 (b) The requirements described in Subsection (5)(a) do not apply to the management of a
- 1029 municipality's municipal cases if the municipality and the presiding judge of the
- 1030 judicial district enter into a memorandum of understanding that specifies a different
- 1031 arrangement for managing the municipality's municipal cases.

1032 Section 19. Section **78A-5-105** is amended to read:

1033 **78A-5-105 . Term of judges -- Vacancy.**

- 1034 (1)(a) ~~[Judges of the district courts shall be-]~~ A judge of the district court is appointed
- 1035 initially until the first general election held more than three years after the effective
- 1036 date of the appointment. ~~[Thereafter, the]~~
- 1037 (b) After the first term of appointment under Subsection (1)(a), the term of office for [
- 1038 judges of the district courts] a judge of the district court is six years, and commences
- 1039 on the first Monday in January, next following the date of election.
- 1040 (2) A judge whose term expires may serve, upon request of the Judicial Council, until a
- 1041 successor is appointed and qualified.
- 1042 (3) If Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court, takes effect as described in Section 78A-5b-102,
- 1043 and a judge of the district court is appointed to the Constitutional Court and does not
- 1044 vacate the judge's appointment to the district court as described in Section 78A-5b-201,
- 1045 the appointment to the Constitutional Court does not modify the judge's term of office
- 1046 described in this section for the judge's appointment to the district court.

1047 Section 20. Section **78A-5a-301** is amended to read:

1048 **78A-5a-301 . Publication of decisions and orders.**1049 [~~The Business and Chancery Court shall:~~]1050 [~~(1) publish all final decisions and orders issued by the Business and Chancery Court; and]~~1051 [~~(2) make all final decisions and orders public on the Utah Courts' website.~~] The Business1052 and Chancery Court shall publish on the website for the Utah state courts any final1053 decision or order issued by the Business and Chancery Court that the Business and1054 Chancery Court determines would be valuable precedent or in the interest of the public.1055 Section 21. Section **78A-5a-302** is amended to read:1056 **78A-5a-302 . Tentative ruling before oral argument.**1057 [~~The Business and Chancery Court shall provide the parties with a proposed ruling on~~-1058 ~~each motion within 48 hours before the day on which oral argument is held on the motion.]~~_1059 Within 48 hours before the day on which oral argument is held, the Business and Chancery_1060 Court:1061 (1) shall provide the parties with a proposed ruling on each dispositive motion; and1062 (2) may provide a proposed ruling on any other type of motion.1063 Section 22. Section **78A-5b-101** is enacted to read:1064 **CHAPTER 5b. Constitutional Court**1065 **Part 1. General Provisions**1066 **78A-5b-101 . Definitions for chapter.**1067 As used in this chapter:1068 (1) "Judicial Council" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78A-2-103.1069 (2)(a) "State entity" means the state or any agency, department, board, or commission of
1070 the state.1071 (b) "State entity" includes the Legislature and any committee of the Legislature.1072 (3) "State official" means:1073 (a) a member of the Legislature;1074 (b) the governor;1075 (c) the lieutenant governor;1076 (d) a member of the governor's cabinet;1077 (e) the state auditor;1078 (f) the state treasurer; or1079 (g) the attorney general.1080 Section 23. Section **78A-5b-102** is enacted to read:

1081 **78A-5b-102 . Effect of chapter contingent on court ruling.**

1082 This chapter only becomes effective if a court invalidates or enjoins Section 78A-5-102.7.

1083 Section 24. Section **78A-5b-103** is enacted to read:

1084 **78A-5b-103 . Establishment of the Constitutional Court -- Organization and**
1085 **status.**

1086 (1) There is established the Constitutional Court for the state.

1087 (2) The Constitutional Court is a court of record.

1088 (3) The Constitutional Court is a trial court with limited and statewide jurisdiction over
1089 actions and claims as described in Section 78A-5b-103.

1090 (4) The Constitutional Court is of equal status with the district and juvenile courts and the
1091 Business and Chancery Court of the state.

1092 (5) The Constitutional Court is established as a forum for the resolution of all matters
1093 properly brought before the Constitutional Court and consistent with applicable
1094 constitutional and statutory requirements of due process.

1095 (6) The Constitutional Court shall have a seal.

1096 (7) The judges and clerks of the Constitutional Court have the power to administer oaths
1097 and affirmations.

1098 Section 25. Section **78A-5b-104** is enacted to read:

1099 **78A-5b-104 . Jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court -- Judgment by panel --**
1100 **District court action.**

1101 (1) The Constitutional Court has exclusive jurisdiction over:

1102 (a) a civil action filed on or after the effective date of this chapter if the civil action:

1103 (i) is challenging the constitutionality of a state statute or legislation, a provision of
1104 the Utah Constitution, an action or inaction of the Legislature, an executive order,
1105 an administrative rule, or an inaction by the executive branch;

1106 (ii) is seeking a declaratory judgment or injunctive relief; and

1107 (iii) is brought against a state entity or a state official in the state official's capacity;

1108 (b) a civil action filed before the effective date of this chapter if:

1109 (i) the civil action is challenging the constitutionality of a state statute or legislation, a
1110 provision of the Utah Constitution, an action or inaction of the Legislature, an
1111 executive order, an administrative rule, or an inaction by the executive branch;

1112 (ii) the civil action is seeking a declaratory judgment or injunctive relief;

1113 (iii) the civil action is brought in the district court against a state entity or a state
1114 official in the state official's capacity; and

1115 (iv) a party files a notice of removal within 45 days after the effective date of this
 1116 chapter.

1117 (2) If a party files a notice of removal under Subsection (1)(b), the Constitutional Court
 1118 shall adjudicate any challenge as to whether the notice of removal complied with the
 1119 requirements of Subsection (1)(b).

1120 (3) A court shall transfer an action to the Constitutional Court if:

1121 (a) a party brings the civil action for which the Constitutional Court has exclusive
 1122 jurisdiction under Subsection (1)(a) in the court; or

1123 (b) a party files a notice of removal under Subsection (1)(b).

1124 (4) A party to a civil action in the Constitutional Court may not seek to transfer the action
 1125 to another trial court of this state, unless the Constitutional Court lacks jurisdiction over
 1126 the action.

1127 Section 26. Section **78A-5b-105** is enacted to read:

1128 **78A-5b-105 . Venue for Constitutional Court.**

1129 (1) Title 78B, Chapter 3a, Venue for Civil Actions, does not apply to an action brought in
 1130 the Constitutional Court.

1131 (2) Any requirement in the Utah Code to file or bring an action in a specific district or
 1132 county does not apply to an action brought in the Constitutional Court.

1133 Section 27. Section **78A-5b-201** is enacted to read:

1134 **Part 2. Administration**

1135 **78A-5b-201 . Judges of Constitutional Court -- Terms.**

1136 (1) If a judge of the district court or Court of Appeals is appointed and confirmed to the
 1137 Constitutional Court, the judge is not required to vacate the judge's appointment to the
 1138 district court or Court of Appeals to serve as a judge of the Constitutional Court.

1139 (2)(a) A judge of the Constitutional Court is appointed to initially serve as a judge of the
 1140 Constitutional Court until the first general election held more than three years after
 1141 the day on which the appointment is effective.

1142 (b) After the initial term described in Subsection (2)(a), the term of office of a judge of
 1143 the Constitutional Court is six years and commences on the first Monday in January
 1144 following the date of election.

1145 (c) A judge of the Constitutional Court whose term expires may serve, upon request of
 1146 the Judicial Council, until a successor is appointed and qualified.

1147 Section 28. Section **78A-5b-202** is enacted to read:

1148 **78A-5b-202 . Decision by panel.**

- 1149 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(a), a single judge of the Constitutional Court may
1150 conduct all proceedings in an action before the Constitutional Court.
- 1151 (2)(a) The Constitutional Court shall sit en banc for:
- 1152 (i) an adjudication of a challenge to a notice of removal as described in Subsection
1153 78A-5b-104(2);
- 1154 (ii) a discovery dispute between the parties that involves a constitutional issue or
1155 right;
- 1156 (iii) a trial;
- 1157 (iv) a proceeding regarding whether to grant injunctive relief; or
- 1158 (v) a motion that would dispose of the action or any claim or defense in the action.
- 1159 (b) Upon a party's request, or by majority vote of the judges of the Constitutional Court,
1160 the Constitutional Court may sit en banc for any issue before the Constitutional Court.
- 1161 (c) A judge of the Constitutional Court may concur or dissent from any decision for
1162 which the Constitutional Court sits en banc.
- 1163 (3)(a) If a judge of the Constitutional Court is unable to participate in a trial or
1164 proceeding described in Subsection (2) due to recusal or disqualification, a district
1165 court judge or Court of Appeals judge may be assigned to sit on the panel and
1166 participate in the trial or proceeding.
- 1167 (b) The presiding officer of the Judicial Council shall designate a pool of three district
1168 court judges or Court of Appeals judges to be randomly assigned to the
1169 Constitutional Court to sit on the panel when a judge of the Constitutional Court is
1170 unable to sit on the panel due to recusal or disqualification.

1171 Section 29. Section **78A-5b-203** is enacted to read:

1172 **78A-5b-203 . Presiding judge -- Associate presiding judge -- Compensation --**

1173 **Powers -- Duties.**

- 1174 (1) The judges of the Constitutional Court shall elect a presiding judge from among the
1175 members of the court by majority vote of all judges.
- 1176 (2) The presiding judge shall receive \$2,000 per annum as additional compensation for the
1177 period served as presiding judge.
- 1178 (3) The presiding judge has the following authority and responsibilities, consistent with the
1179 policies of the Judicial Council:
- 1180 (a) implementing policies of the Judicial Council; and
- 1181 (b) exercising powers and performing administrative duties as authorized by the Judicial
1182 Council.

- 1183 (4)(a) The judges of the Constitutional Court may elect an associate presiding judge
 1184 from among the members of the court by majority vote of all judges.
- 1185 (b) The associate presiding judge shall receive \$1,000 per annum as additional
 1186 compensation for the period served as associate presiding judge.
- 1187 (5)(a) When the presiding judge is unavailable, the associate presiding judge shall
 1188 assume the responsibilities of the presiding judge.
- 1189 (b) The associate presiding judge shall perform other duties assigned by the presiding
 1190 judge.
- 1191 Section 30. Section **78A-5b-204** is enacted to read:
- 1192 **78A-5b-204 . Administrative system -- Case management -- Clerk of the court --**
 1193 **Employees.**
- 1194 (1)(a) There is established the State Constitutional Court Administrative System.
- 1195 (b) The Judicial Council shall administer the operation of the State Constitutional Court
 1196 Administrative System.
- 1197 (2) The Constitutional Court shall develop a case management system that ensures judicial
 1198 accountability for the just and timely disposition of cases.
- 1199 (3) The clerk of the Constitutional Court shall:
- 1200 (a) take charge of and safely keep the court seal;
- 1201 (b) take charge of and safely keep or dispose of all books, papers, and records filed or
 1202 deposited with the clerk and all other records required by law or the rules of the
 1203 Judicial Council;
- 1204 (c) issue all notices, processes, and summonses as authorized by law;
- 1205 (d) keep a record of all proceedings, actions, orders, judgments, and decrees of the court;
- 1206 (e) supervise the deputy clerks as required to perform the duties of the clerk's office; and
- 1207 (f) perform other duties as required by the presiding judge, the constitutional court
 1208 administrator, applicable law, and the rules of the Judicial Council.
- 1209 (4) All employees, except judges of the Constitutional Court, are selected, promoted, and
 1210 discharged through the state court's personnel system for the Constitutional Court under
 1211 the direction and rules of the Judicial Council.
- 1212 Section 31. Section **78A-5b-205** is enacted to read:
- 1213 **78A-5b-205 . Location of the Constitutional Court.**
- 1214 (1) The Constitutional Court may perform any of the Constitutional Court's functions in any
 1215 location within the state.
- 1216 (2) The Judicial Council shall provide, from appropriations made by the Legislature, court

- 1217 space suitable for the conduct of court business for the Constitutional Court.
- 1218 (3) In order to carry out the Judicial Council's obligation to provide facilities for the
- 1219 Constitutional Court, the Judicial Council may lease space to be used by the
- 1220 Constitutional Court.
- 1221 (4) A lease or reimbursement for the Constitutional Court must comply with the standards
- 1222 of the Division of Facilities Construction and Management that are applicable to state
- 1223 agencies.
- 1224 (5) The cost of salaries, travel, and training required for the discharge of the duties of
- 1225 judges, secretaries of judges or court executives, court executives, and court reporters
- 1226 for the Constitutional Court are paid from appropriations made by the Legislature.

1227 Section 32. Section **78A-5b-206** is enacted to read:

1228 **78A-5b-206 . Court sessions.**

1229 The Constitutional Court shall hold court at least once in each quarter of the year.

1230 Section 33. Section **78A-10a-202** is amended to read:

1231 **78A-10a-202 . Notice of a vacancy -- Recruitment period for judicial vacancy --**

1232 **Convening a judicial nominating commission.**

1233 (1)(a) [~~Unless a hiring freeze is implemented in accordance with Section 78A-2-113]~~

1234 Except as otherwise provided by this section, the governor shall ensure that:

- 1235 (i) [~~except as provided in Subsection (1)(a)(ii)]~~ if sufficient notice of a judicial
- 1236 vacancy is given to the governor, the recruitment period to fill a judicial vacancy
- 1237 begins 235 days before the effective date of the judicial vacancy;
- 1238 (ii) if sufficient notice of a judicial vacancy is not given to the governor, the
- 1239 recruitment period to fill a judicial vacancy begins within 10 days after the day on
- 1240 which the governor receives notice;
- 1241 (iii) [~~except as provided in Subsection (1)(b),~~]the recruitment period is a minimum
- 1242 of at least 30 days but no more than 90 days; and
- 1243 (iv) the chair of the commission having authority over the vacancy convenes a
- 1244 meeting no more than 10 days after the close of the recruitment period.

1245 (b) If fewer than nine applications are received for a judicial vacancy, the governor may

1246 extend the recruitment period described in Subsection (1)(a)(iii) up to 30 days.

1247 (2) If there is a hiring freeze implemented in accordance with Section 78A-2-113, the time

1248 periods described in Subsection (1) shall begin to run on the day that the hiring freeze

1249 ends.

1250 (3) If Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court, takes effect as described in Section 78A-5b-102,

1251 and a district court judge or Court of Appeals judge is appointed and confirmed as a
 1252 judge of the Constitutional Court, the judge shall notify the governor as to whether the
 1253 judge intends to vacate the judge's appointment to the district court or Court of Appeals.

1254 Section 34. Section **78A-10a-203** is amended to read:

1255 **78A-10a-203 . Procedures for judicial nomination commission -- Meetings --**
 1256 **Certification -- Governor appointment.**

1257 (1)(a) A commission may:

1258 (i) meet as necessary to perform the commission's function; and

1259 (ii) investigate the applicants of a judicial vacancy, including seeking input from
 1260 members and employees of the judiciary and the community.

1261 (b) A commission may consult with the Judicial Council regarding the applicants for a
 1262 judicial vacancy.

1263 (c) A commission is exempt from the requirements of Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and
 1264 Public Meetings Act.

1265 (2)(a) In determining which of the applicants are the most qualified, a commission shall
 1266 determine by a majority vote of the commissioners present which of the applicants
 1267 best possess the ability, temperament, training, and experience that qualifies an
 1268 applicant for the office.

1269 (b) In addition to Subsection (2)(a), the Constitutional Court Nominating Commission
 1270 shall select applicants in accordance with the requirements described in Section
 1271 78A-10a-606.

1272 (3)(a) Except as provided under Subsection (3)(b):

1273 (i) the [~~appellate court nominating commission~~] Appellate Court Nominating
 1274 Commission shall certify to the governor a list of the seven most qualified
 1275 applicants per judicial vacancy;

1276 (ii) a district and juvenile court nominating commission shall certify to the governor a
 1277 list of the five most qualified applicants per judicial vacancy; [~~and~~]

1278 (iii) the [~~business and chancery court nominating commission~~] Business and Chancery
 1279 Court Nominating Commission shall certify to the governor a list of the seven
 1280 most qualified applicants per judicial vacancy[-] ; and

1281 (iv) the Constitutional Court Nominating Commission shall certify to the governor a
 1282 list of the seven most qualified applicants per judicial vacancy.

1283 (b) If a commission is considering applicants for more than one judicial vacancy existing
 1284 at the same time and for the same court, the commission shall include one additional

1285 applicant for each additional judicial vacancy in the court in the list of applicants the
1286 commission certifies to the governor.

- 1287 (4) A commission shall certify a list to the governor under Subsection (3) no more than 45
1288 days after convening in accordance with Section 78A-10a-202.
- 1289 (5) A commission shall, at the time that the commission certifies a list of the most qualified
1290 applicants to the governor, submit the same list to the president of the Senate, the Senate
1291 minority leader, and the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.
- 1292 (6) A commission shall ensure that the list of applicants certified to the governor:
1293 (a) meet the qualifications required by law to fill the office; and
1294 (b) are willing to serve.
- 1295 (7) In determining which of the applicants are the most qualified, a commission may not
1296 decline to certify an applicant's name to the governor because:
1297 (a) the commission declined to submit that applicant's name to the governor to fill a
1298 previous judicial vacancy;
1299 (b) a previous commission declined to submit that applicant's name to the governor; or
1300 (c) the commission or a previous commission submitted the applicant's name to the
1301 governor and the governor selected another individual to fill the judicial vacancy.
- 1302 (8) A commission may not certify:
1303 (a) an applicant who is a justice or judge that was not retained by the voters for the
1304 office for which the justice or judge was defeated until after the expiration of that
1305 justice's or judge's term of office; and
1306 (b) an applicant who has served on a commission within six months after the day on
1307 which the commission was last convened.
- 1308 (9) The governor shall fill a judicial vacancy within 30 days after the day on which the
1309 governor received the list of nominees from the commission.
- 1310 (10) If the governor fails to fill a judicial vacancy within 30 days after the day on which the
1311 governor received the list of nominees from the commission, the chief justice of the
1312 Supreme Court shall, within 20 days, appoint an applicant from the list of nominees
1313 certified to the governor by the commission.

1314 Section 35. Section **78A-10a-601** is enacted to read:

1315 **Part 6. Constitutional Court Nominating Commission**

1316 **78A-10a-601 . Definitions for part.**

1317 As used in this part:

- 1318 (1) "Commission" means the Constitutional Court Nominating Commission created in

1319 Section 78A-10a-602.

1320 (2) "Commissioner" means an individual appointed by the governor to serve on the
1321 commission.

1322 Section 36. Section **78A-10a-602** is enacted to read:

1323 **78A-10a-602 . Effect of part contingent on court ruling.**

1324 This part only becomes effective if a court invalidates or enjoins Section 78A-5-102.7.

1325 Section 37. Section **78A-10a-603** is enacted to read:

1326 **78A-10a-603 . Creation of commission.**

1327 (1) There is created the Constitutional Court Nominating Commission.

1328 (2) The Constitutional Court Nominating Commission shall nominate individuals to fill
1329 judicial vacancies on the Constitutional Court.

1330 Section 38. Section **78A-10a-604** is enacted to read:

1331 **78A-10a-604 . Membership -- Appointment -- Vacancies -- Removal.**

1332 (1) The Constitutional Court Nominating Commission shall consist of seven
1333 commissioners, each appointed by the governor to serve a four-year term.

1334 (2) A commissioner shall:

1335 (a) be a United States citizen;

1336 (b) be a resident of Utah; and

1337 (c) serve until the commissioner's successor is appointed.

1338 (3) The governor may not appoint:

1339 (a) a commissioner to serve successive terms; or

1340 (b) a member of the Legislature to serve as a member of the commission.

1341 (4) In determining whether to appoint an individual to serve as a commissioner, the
1342 governor shall consider whether the individual's appointment would ensure that the
1343 commission selects applicants without any regard to partisan political consideration.

1344 (5) The governor shall appoint the chair of the commission from among the membership of
1345 the commission.

1346 (6) The governor shall fill any vacancy in the commission caused by the expiration of a
1347 commissioner's term.

1348 (7)(a) If a commissioner is disqualified, removed, or is otherwise unable to serve, the
1349 governor shall appoint a replacement commissioner to fill the vacancy for the
1350 unexpired term.

1351 (b) A replacement commissioner appointed under Subsection (7)(a) may not be
1352 reappointed upon expiration of the term of service.

1353 (8) The governor may remove a commissioner from the commission at any time with or
1354 without cause.

1355 Section 39. Section **78A-10a-605** is enacted to read:

1356 **78A-10a-605 . Procedure -- Staff -- Rules -- Recusal.**

1357 (1) Four commissioners are a quorum.

1358 (2) The governor shall appoint a member of the governor's staff to serve as staff to the
1359 commission.

1360 (3) The governor shall:

1361 (a) ensure that the commission follows the rules promulgated by the State Commission
1362 on Criminal and Juvenile Justice under Section 78A-10a-201; and

1363 (b) resolve any questions regarding the rules described in Subsection (3)(a).

1364 (4) A commissioner who is a licensed attorney may recuse oneself if there is a conflict of
1365 interest that makes the commissioner unable to serve.

1366 Section 40. Section **78A-10a-606** is enacted to read:

1367 **78A-10a-606 . Expenses -- Per diem and travel.**

1368 A commissioner may not receive compensation or benefits for the commissioner's
1369 service but may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:

1370 (1) Section 63A-3-106;

1371 (2) Section 63A-3-107; and

1372 (3) rules made by the Division of Finance in accordance with Sections 63A-3-106 and
1373 63A-3-107.

1374 Section 41. Section **78A-10a-607** is enacted to read:

1375 **78A-10a-607 . Selection requirements for applicants.**

1376 (1) In selecting applicants who are the most qualified to serve on the Constitutional Court,
1377 the commission shall give precedence to an applicant who:

1378 (a) is a judge or justice; or

1379 (b) has previously served as a judge or justice.

1380 (2) The commission shall make every effort to select applicants for the Constitutional Court
1381 that would result in each judge on the Constitutional Court having primarily practiced
1382 law or served as a judge in a different judicial district than the other judges on the
1383 Constitutional Court.

1384 Section 42. Section **78A-11-102** is amended to read:

1385 **78A-11-102 . Definitions.**

1386 As used in this chapter:

- 1387 (1) "Commission" means the Judicial Conduct Commission established by Utah
 1388 Constitution, Article VIII, Section 13, and this chapter.
- 1389 (2)(a) "Complaint" includes:
- 1390 (i) a written complaint against a judge; or
- 1391 (ii) an allegation based on reliable information received in any form, from any
 1392 source, that alleges, or from which a reasonable inference can be drawn that a
 1393 judge is in violation of any provision of Utah Constitution, Article VIII, Section
 1394 13.
- 1395 (b) "Complaint" does not include an allegation initiated by the commission or [its] the
 1396 commission's staff.
- 1397 (3) "Investigation" means an inquiry into an allegation of misconduct, including a search
 1398 for and examination of evidence concerning the allegations, which begins upon the
 1399 receipt of a complaint and is completed when either the complaint is dismissed by a
 1400 majority vote of the commission or when an order is sent to the Supreme Court for its
 1401 review in accordance with Utah Constitution, Article VIII, Section 13.
- 1402 (4) "Judge" includes:
- 1403 (a) the chief justice of the Supreme Court[;] ;
- 1404 (b) a justice of the Supreme Court[;] ;
- 1405 (c) a judge of the Court of Appeals[;] ;
- 1406 (d) a judge of the Business and Chancery Court[;] ;
- 1407 (e) a judge of the Constitutional Court if Chapter 5b, Constitutional Court, takes effect
 1408 as described in Section 78A-5b-102;
- 1409 (f) a district court judge[;] ;
- 1410 (g) an active senior judge[;] ;
- 1411 (h) a juvenile court judge[;] ;
- 1412 (i) a justice court judge[;] ;
- 1413 (j) an active senior justice court judge[;] ; and
- 1414 (k) a judge pro tempore of any court of this state.
- 1415 Section 43. Section **78B-3a-102** is amended to read:
- 1416 **78B-3a-102 . Applicability of this chapter.**
- 1417 (1) Except as otherwise provided by another provision of the Utah Code, a plaintiff shall
 1418 bring an action in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.
- 1419 (2) The requirements of this chapter do not apply to:
- 1420 (a) [-]an action brought in the Business and Chancery Court[;] ; or

1421 (b) an action brought in the Constitutional Court if Title 78A, Chapter 5b, Constitutional
1422 Court, takes effect as described in Section 78A-5b-102.

1423 Section 44. Section **78B-5-202** is amended to read:

1424 **78B-5-202 . Duration of judgment -- Judgment as a lien upon real property --**
1425 **Abstract of judgment -- Small claims judgment not a lien -- Appeal of judgment -- Child**
1426 **support orders.**

1427 (1)(a) Judgments shall continue for eight years from the date of entry in a court unless
1428 previously satisfied, renewed, or unless enforcement of the judgment is stayed in
1429 accordance with law.

1430 (b) Entry of an order renewing a judgment:

1431 (i) maintains the date of the original judgment;

1432 (ii) maintains the priority of collection of the judgment; and

1433 (iii) except as explicitly provided otherwise by law or contract, begins anew the time
1434 limitation for an action upon the judgment.

1435 (2) Before July 1, 1997, except as limited by Subsections (4) and (5), the entry of judgment
1436 by a district court creates a lien upon the real property of the judgment debtor, not
1437 exempt from execution, owned or acquired during the existence of the judgment, located
1438 in the county in which the judgment is entered.

1439 (3) An abstract of judgment issued by the court in which the judgment is entered may be
1440 filed in any court of this state and shall have the same force and effect as a judgment
1441 entered in that court.

1442 (4) Before July 1, 1997, and after May 15, 1998, a judgment entered in a small claims
1443 action may not qualify as a lien upon real property unless abstracted to the district court
1444 and recorded in accordance with Subsection (3).

1445 (5)(a) If any judgment is appealed, upon deposit with the court where the notice of
1446 appeal is filed of cash or other security in a form and amount considered sufficient by
1447 the court that rendered the judgment to secure the full amount of the judgment,
1448 together with ongoing interest and any other anticipated damages or costs, including
1449 attorney fees and costs on appeal, the lien created by the judgment shall be
1450 terminated as provided in Subsection (5)(b).

1451 (b) Upon the deposit of sufficient security as provided in Subsection (5)(a), the court
1452 shall enter an order terminating the lien created by the judgment and granting the
1453 judgment creditor a perfected lien in the deposited security as of the date of the
1454 original judgment.

- 1455 (6)(a) A child support order, including an order or judgment for guardian ad litem
1456 attorney fees and costs, or a sum certain judgment for past due support may be
1457 enforced:
- 1458 (i) within four years after the date the youngest child reaches majority; or
 - 1459 (ii) eight years from the date of entry of the sum certain judgment entered by a
1460 tribunal.
- 1461 (b) The longer period of duration shall apply in every order.
- 1462 (c) A sum certain judgment may be renewed to extend the duration.
- 1463 (7)(a) After July 1, 2002, a judgment entered by a district court, a justice court, [~~or~~]the
1464 Business and Chancery Court, or the Constitutional Court, becomes a lien upon real
1465 property if:
- 1466 (i) the judgment or an abstract of the judgment containing the information identifying
1467 the judgment debtor as described in Subsection 78B-5-201(4)(b) is recorded in the
1468 office of the county recorder; or
 - 1469 (ii) the judgment or an abstract of the judgment and a separate information statement
1470 of the judgment creditor as described in Subsection 78B-5-201(5) is recorded in
1471 the office of the county recorder.
- 1472 (b) The judgment shall run from the date of entry by the court.
- 1473 (c) The real property subject to the lien includes all the real property of the judgment
1474 debtor:
- 1475 (i) in the county in which the recording under Subsection (7)(a)(i) or (ii) occurs; and
 - 1476 (ii) owned or acquired at any time by the judgment debtor during the time the
1477 judgment is effective.
- 1478 (d) If the judgment that gives rise to a lien described in Subsection (7)(a) is a judgment
1479 in favor of a state agency, the real property subject to the lien includes all real
1480 property of the judgment debtor in the state.
- 1481 (e) State agencies are exempt from the recording requirement of Subsection (7)(a).
- 1482 (8)(a) A judgment referred to in Subsection (7) shall be entered under the name of the
1483 judgment debtor in the judgment index in the office of the county recorder as
1484 required in Section 17-71-302.
- 1485 (b) A judgment containing a legal description shall also be abstracted in the appropriate
1486 tract index in the office of the county recorder.
- 1487 (9)(a) To release, assign, renew, or extend a lien created by a judgment recorded in the
1488 office of a county recorder, a person shall, in the office of the county recorder of each

1489 county in which an instrument creating the lien is recorded, record a document
1490 releasing, assigning, renewing, or extending the lien.

1491 (b) The document described in Subsection (9)(a) shall include:

1492 (i) the date of the release, assignment, renewal, or extension;

1493 (ii) the name of any judgment creditor, debtor, assignor, or assignee; and

1494 (iii) for the county in which the document is recorded in accordance with Subsection
1495 (9)(a):

1496 (A) the date on which the instrument creating the lien was recorded in that
1497 county's office of the county recorder; and

1498 (B) in accordance with Section 57-3-106, that county recorder's entry number and
1499 book and page of the recorded instrument creating the judgment lien.

1500 Section 45. Section **78B-5-206** is amended to read:

1501 **78B-5-206 . Mileage allowance for judgment debtor required to appear.**

1502 (1) A judgment debtor legally required to appear before a district court~~[or]~~ , the Business
1503 and Chancery Court, or the Constitutional Court, to answer concerning the debtor's
1504 property is entitled, on a sufficient showing of need, to mileage of 15 cents per mile for
1505 each mile actually and necessarily traveled in going only, to be paid by the judgment
1506 creditor at whose instance the judgment debtor was required to appear.

1507 (2) The judgment creditor is not required to make any payment for such mileage until the
1508 judgment debtor has actually appeared before the court.

1509 Section 46. Section **78B-5-1002** is amended to read:

1510 **78B-5-1002 . Right to an appeal of an injunctive order.**

1511 (1) As used in this section:

1512 (a) "Defendant" means a defendant in the civil action or a party affected by the
1513 injunctive order.

1514 (b) "Governmental entity" means the state, a county, a municipality, a special district, a
1515 special service district, a school district, a state institution of higher education, or any
1516 other political subdivision or administrative unit of the state.

1517 (c) "Injunctive order" means a temporary restraining order, a preliminary injunction, [a
1518 ~~permanent injunction, or any order or judgment~~] or any order that restrains or enjoins
1519 the execution or enforcement of a state law or any part of a state law before entry of a
1520 judgment.

1521 (d) "Plaintiff" means the party seeking the injunctive order.

1522 (e) "State law" means a state statute, a provision of the Utah Constitution, or any action

1523 of the Legislature.

1524 (2) A defendant has a right in a civil action to appeal a decision by a trial court of this state
 1525 to grant, continue, modify, or refuse to modify an injunctive order if the underlying
 1526 claim for the injunctive order is that the state law, or any part of the state law, is
 1527 unconstitutional on its face.

1528 (3) Upon an appeal described in Subsection (2), the Supreme Court shall determine whether:

1529 (a) the decision of the trial court is correct; and

1530 (b) there is a substantial likelihood that the plaintiff will prevail on the merits of the
 1531 claim that the state law, or any part of the state law, is unconstitutional on its face.

1532 (4) A defendant who does not exercise the defendant's right to appeal under this section is
 1533 not precluded from seeking an appeal of the decision upon entry of a judgment or under
 1534 any other law for which the defendant may appeal the decision.

1535 [~~(4)~~] (5) If a governmental entity brings an appeal under Subsection (2), the governmental
 1536 entity is not required to post a bond for the appeal.

1537 (6) The requirements for an appeal of right under the Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure
 1538 apply to the filing of an appeal under this section.

1539 [~~(5)~~] (7) This section applies to an action pending in a court of this state on [~~and~~] or after
 1540 May 7, 2025.

1541 Section 47. Section **78B-6-1303** is amended to read:

1542 **78B-6-1303 . Lis pendens -- Notice.**

1543 (1)(a) Any party to an action filed in the United States District Court for the District of
 1544 Utah, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Utah, a district court of
 1545 this state, [~~or~~]the Business and Chancery Court of this state, or the Constitutional
 1546 Court of this state that affects the title to, or the right of possession of, real property
 1547 may file a notice of pendency of action.

1548 (b) A party that chooses to file a notice of pendency of action shall:

1549 (i) first, file the notice with the court that has jurisdiction of the action; and

1550 (ii) second, record a copy of the notice filed with the court with the county recorder
 1551 in the county where the property or any portion of the property is located.

1552 (c) A person may not file a notice of pendency of action unless a case has been filed and
 1553 is pending in the United States District Court for the District of Utah, the United
 1554 States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Utah, a district court of this state, [~~or~~]the
 1555 Business and Chancery Court of this state, or the Constitutional Court of this state.

1556 (2) The notice shall contain:

- 1557 (a) the caption of the case, with the names of the parties and the case number;
1558 (b) the object of the action or defense; and
1559 (c) the specific legal description of only the property affected.
1560 (3) From the time of filing the notice, a purchaser, an encumbrancer of the property, or any
1561 other party in interest that may be affected by the action is considered to have
1562 constructive notice of pendency of action.

1563 Section 48. **Effective Date.**

1564 This bill takes effect:

- 1565 (1) except as provided in Subsection (2), May 6, 2026; or
1566 (2) if approved by two-thirds of all members elected to each house:
1567 (a) upon approval by the governor;
1568 (b) without the governor's signature, the day following the constitutional time limit of
1569 Utah Constitution, Article VII, Section 8; or
1570 (c) in the case of a veto, the date of veto override.

1571 Section 49. **Revisor instructions.**

1572 The Legislature intends that the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, in
1573 preparing the Utah Code database for publication, revise Section 78A-5-102.7 by replacing
1574 each instance of the phrase "the effective date of this bill" with the bill's actual effective date.