1   **Judicial Cases Distribution Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jordan D. Teuscher

Senate Sponsor:

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3   **LONG TITLE**

4   **General Description:**

5   This bill addresses the distribution of district court cases.

6   **Highlighted Provisions:**

7   This bill:

8   ‣ defines terms;

9   ‣ addresses the assignment of district court judges to cases a municipality files, appeals, or

10   transfers to the district court; and

11   ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.

12   **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

13   None

14   **Other Special Clauses:**

15   None

16   **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

17   AMENDS:

18   **78A-5-103**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3

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

21   Section 1. Section **78A-5-103** is amended to read:

22   **78A-5-103 . District court case management.**

23   (1) As used in this section:

24   (a) "Municipal case" means a criminal case:

25   (i) filed in a district court by a city attorney on behalf of a municipality;

26   (ii) appealed from a municipal justice court to a district court; or

27   (iii) transferred to a district court by a municipal justice court.

28   (b) "Municipality" means the same as that term is defined in Section 10-1-104.

29   (c) "Municipality's principal office" means the primary location where the municipality

30   conducts official administrative business.

31   [(1)] (2) The district court of each district shall develop systems of case management.

32   [(2)] (3) The case management systems developed by a district court shall:

33   (a) ensure judicial accountability for the just and timely disposition of cases; and

34   (b) provide for each judge a full judicial [work load] workload that accommodates

35   differences in the subject matter or complexity of cases assigned to different judges.

36   [(3)] (4)(a) A district court may establish divisions within the court for the efficient

37   management of different types of cases.[−]

38   (b) The existence of divisions within the court may not:

39   [(a)] (i) affect the jurisdiction of the court nor the validity of court orders; or

40   [(b)] (ii) impede public access to the courts.

41   (5)(a) For management of municipal cases, the presiding judge of each judicial district

42   shall:

43   (i) assign at least one judge to hear a municipality's municipal cases;

44   (ii) ensure that the number of judges assigned to hear a municipality's cases does not

45   exceed one judge for every 500 municipal cases that the municipality files,

46   appeals, or transfers in the calendar year; and

47   (iii) except as provided in Subsection (5)(c), ensure that each municipal case is heard

48   in the closest possible location to the municipality.

49   (b) The location described in Subsection (5)(a)(iii) shall be measured by driving distance

50   to the municipality's principal office.

51   (c) A municipal case may be heard in a location other than the location described in

52   Subsection (5)(a)(iii) if the presiding judge finds good cause for the municipal case to

53   be heard in a different location.

54   Section 2. **Effective Date.**

55   This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.