

Logan J. Monson proposes the following substitute bill:

Judicial Transparency, Information Access, and Transition Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Logan J. Monson

Senate Sponsor: Brady Brammer

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses public access to court records and proceedings, judicial financial disclosures, and employment of a former judge.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- addresses access to an audio recording of a public court proceeding;
- requires the Judicial Council to create and maintain a single website for all public court records;
- provides the requirements for the website containing all public court records;
- addresses fees for court records;
- prohibits a law firm from hiring a judge for two years after the judge leaves office in certain circumstances;
- requires the Judicial Council to create a rule on judicial financial disclosures and to report to the Judiciary Interim Committee; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

63G-2-302 (Effective 01/01/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 172

78A-2-301 (Effective 01/01/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 291

78A-2-301.5 (Effective 01/01/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 384

29 ENACTS:

30 **78A-1-201 (Effective 01/01/27)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

31 **78A-1-203 (Effective 01/01/27)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

32 **78A-1-204 (Effective 01/01/27)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

33 **78A-2-301.7 (Effective 01/01/27)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

34 **78A-9a-101 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

35 **78A-9a-102 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36 **78A-9a-103 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

37 RENUMBERS AND AMENDS:

38 **78A-1-202 (Effective 01/01/27)**, (Renumbered from 78A-2-208, as last amended by
39 Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 394)



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

42 Section 1. Section **63G-2-302** is amended to read:

43 **63G-2-302 (Effective 01/01/27). Private records.**

44 (1) The following records are private:

45 (a) records concerning an individual's eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits,
46 social services, welfare benefits, or the determination of benefit levels;

47 (b) records containing data on individuals describing medical history, diagnosis,
48 condition, treatment, evaluation, or similar medical data;

49 (c) records of publicly funded libraries that when examined alone or with other records
50 identify a patron;

51 (d) records received by or generated by or for:

52 (i) the Independent Legislative Ethics Commission, except for:

53 (A) the commission's summary data report that is required under legislative rule;
54 and

55 (B) any other document that is classified as public under legislative rule; or

56 (ii) a Senate or House Ethics Committee in relation to the review of ethics
57 complaints, unless the record is classified as public under legislative rule;

58 (e) records received by, or generated by or for, the Independent Executive Branch Ethics
59 Commission, except as otherwise expressly provided in Title 63A, Chapter 14,
60 Review of Executive Branch Ethics Complaints;

61 (f) records received or generated for a Senate confirmation committee concerning
62 character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual:

- 63 (i) if, [~~prior to~~] before the meeting, the chair of the committee determines release of
64 the records:
- 65 (A) reasonably could be expected to interfere with the investigation undertaken by
66 the committee; or
- 67 (B) would create a danger of depriving a person of a right to a fair proceeding or
68 impartial hearing; and
- 69 (ii) after the meeting, if the meeting was closed to the public;
- 70 (g) employment records concerning a current or former employee of, or applicant for
71 employment with, a governmental entity that would disclose that individual's home
72 address, home telephone number, social security number, insurance coverage, marital
73 status, or payroll deductions;
- 74 (h) records or parts of records under Section 63G-2-303 that a current or former
75 employee identifies as private according to the requirements of that section;
- 76 (i) that part of a record indicating a person's social security number or federal employer
77 identification number if provided under Section 31A-23a-104, 31A-25-202,
78 31A-26-202, 58-1-301, 58-55-302, 61-1-4, or 61-2f-203;
- 79 (j) that part of a voter registration record identifying a voter's:
- 80 (i) driver license or identification card number;
- 81 (ii) social security number, or last four digits of the social security number;
- 82 (iii) email address;
- 83 (iv) date of birth; or
- 84 (v) phone number;
- 85 (k) a voter registration record that is classified as a private record by the lieutenant
86 governor or a county clerk under Subsection 20A-2-101.1(5)(a), 20A-2-104(4)(h), or
87 20A-2-204(4)(b);
- 88 (l) a voter registration record that is withheld under Subsection 20A-2-104(7);
- 89 (m) a withholding request form described in Subsections 20A-2-104(7) and (8) and any
90 verification submitted in support of the form;
- 91 (n) a record or information regarding whether a voter returned a ballot with postage
92 attached;
- 93 (o) a record that:
- 94 (i) contains information about an individual;
- 95 (ii) is voluntarily provided by the individual; and
- 96 (iii) goes into an electronic database that:

- 97 (A) is designated by and administered under the authority of the [~~Chief~~
98 ~~Information Officer~~] chief information officer; and
- 99 (B) acts as a repository of information about the individual that can be
100 electronically retrieved and used to facilitate the individual's online interaction
101 with a state agency;
- 102 (p) information provided to the [~~Commissioner of Insurance~~] commissioner of insurance
103 under:
- 104 (i) Subsection 31A-23a-115(3)(a);
105 (ii) Subsection 31A-23a-302(4); or
106 (iii) Subsection 31A-26-210(4);
- 107 (q) information obtained through a criminal background check under Title 11, Chapter
108 40, Criminal Background Checks by Political Subdivisions Operating Water Systems;
- 109 (r) information provided by an offender that is:
- 110 (i) required by the registration requirements of Title 53, Chapter 29, Sex, Kidnap, and
111 Child Abuse Offender Registry; and
112 (ii) not required to be made available to the public under Subsection 53-29-404(3)(a);
- 113 (s) a statement and any supporting documentation filed with the attorney general in
114 accordance with Section 34-45-107, if the federal law or action supporting the filing
115 involves homeland security;
- 116 (t) electronic toll collection customer account information received or collected under
117 Section 72-6-118 and customer information described in Section 17B-2a-815
118 received or collected by a public transit district, including contact and payment
119 information and customer travel data;
- 120 (u) an email address provided by a military or overseas voter under Section 20A-16-501;
- 121 (v) a completed military-overseas ballot that is electronically transmitted under Title
122 20A, Chapter 16, Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act;
- 123 (w) records received by or generated by or for the Political Subdivisions Ethics Review
124 Commission established in Section 63A-15-201, except for:
- 125 (i) the commission's summary data report that is required in Section 63A-15-202; and
126 (ii) any other document that is classified as public in accordance with Title 63A,
127 Chapter 15, Political Subdivisions Ethics Review Commission;
- 128 (x) a record described in Section 53G-9-604 that verifies that a parent was notified of an
129 incident or threat;
- 130 (y) a criminal background check or credit history report conducted in accordance with

- 131 Section 63A-3-201;
- 132 (z) a record described in Subsection 53-5a-104(7);
- 133 (aa) on a record maintained by a county for the purpose of administering property taxes,
- 134 an individual's:
- 135 (i) email address;
- 136 (ii) phone number; or
- 137 (iii) personal financial information related to a person's payment method;
- 138 (bb) a record submitted by a taxpayer to establish the taxpayer's eligibility for an
- 139 exemption, deferral, abatement, or relief under:
- 140 (i) Title 59, Chapter 2, Part 11, Exemptions; or
- 141 (ii) Title 59, Chapter 2a, Tax Relief Through Property Tax;
- 142 (cc) a record provided by the State Tax Commission in response to a request under
- 143 Subsection 59-1-403(4)(y)(iii);
- 144 (dd) a record of the Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel regarding an individual
- 145 child welfare case, as described in Subsection 36-33-103(3);
- 146 (ee) a record relating to drug or alcohol testing of a state employee under Section
- 147 63A-17-1004;
- 148 (ff) a record relating to a request by a state elected official or state employee who has
- 149 been threatened to the Division of Technology Services to remove personal
- 150 identifying information from the open web under Section 63A-16-109;
- 151 (gg) a record including confidential information as that term is defined in Section
- 152 67-27-106; and
- 153 (hh) a record or notice received or generated under Title 53, Chapter 30, Security
- 154 Improvements Act, relating to:
- 155 (i) an application for certification described in Section 53-30-201; or
- 156 (ii) a security improvement, including a building permit application or building
- 157 permit for a security improvement described in Section 53-30-301.
- 158 (2) The following records are private if properly classified by a governmental entity:
- 159 (a) records concerning a current or former employee of, or applicant for employment
- 160 with a governmental entity, including performance evaluations and personal status
- 161 information such as race, religion, or disabilities, but not including records that are
- 162 public under Subsection 63G-2-301(2)(b) or 63G-2-301(3)(o) or private under
- 163 Subsection (1)(b);
- 164 (b) records describing an individual's finances, except that the following are public:

- 165 (i) records described in Subsection 63G-2-301(2);
- 166 (ii) information provided to the governmental entity for the purpose of complying
167 with a financial assurance requirement; or
- 168 (iii) records that must be disclosed in accordance with another statute or a rule
169 described in Section 78A-9a-103;
- 170 (c) records of independent state agencies if the disclosure of those records would
171 conflict with the fiduciary obligations of the agency;
- 172 (d) other records containing data on individuals the disclosure of which constitutes a
173 clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- 174 (e) records provided by the United States or by a government entity outside the state that
175 are given with the requirement that the records be managed as private records, if the
176 providing entity states in writing that the record would not be subject to public
177 disclosure if retained by it;
- 178 (f) any portion of a record in the custody of the Division of Aging and Adult Services,
179 created in Section 26B-6-102, that may disclose, or lead to the discovery of, the
180 identity of a person who made a report of alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a
181 vulnerable adult; and
- 182 (g) audio and video recordings created by a body-worn camera, as defined in Section
183 77-7a-103, that record sound or images inside a home or residence except for
184 recordings that:
- 185 (i) depict the commission of an alleged crime;
- 186 (ii) record any encounter between a law enforcement officer and a person that results
187 in death or bodily injury, or includes an instance when an officer fires a weapon;
- 188 (iii) record any encounter that is the subject of a complaint or a legal proceeding
189 against a law enforcement officer or law enforcement agency;
- 190 (iv) contain an officer-involved critical incident as defined in Subsection
191 76-2-408(1)(f); or
- 192 (v) have been requested for reclassification as a public record by a subject or
193 authorized agent of a subject featured in the recording.
- 194 (3)(a) As used in this Subsection (3), "medical records" means medical reports, records,
195 statements, history, diagnosis, condition, treatment, and evaluation.
- 196 (b) Medical records in the possession of the University of Utah Hospital, its clinics,
197 doctors, or affiliated entities are not private records or controlled records under
198 Section 63G-2-304 when the records are sought:

- 199 (i) in connection with any legal or administrative proceeding in which the patient's
 200 physical, mental, or emotional condition is an element of any claim or defense; or
 201 (ii) after a patient's death, in any legal or administrative proceeding in which any
 202 party relies upon the condition as an element of the claim or defense.
- 203 (c) Medical records are subject to production in a legal or administrative proceeding
 204 according to state or federal statutes or rules of procedure and evidence as if the
 205 medical records were in the possession of a nongovernmental medical care provider.

206 Section 2. Section **78A-1-201** is enacted to read:

207 **Part 2. Public Access to Courts**

208 **78A-1-201 (Effective 01/01/27). Definitions for part.**

209 As used in this part:

- 210 (1) "Court" means the justice court, the district court, the juvenile court, the Business and
 211 Chancery Court, the Court of Appeals, or the Supreme Court.
- 212 (2) "Court proceeding" means a proceeding, trial, or other appearance before a court of this
 213 state.
- 214 (3) "Court record" means all or any portion of papers, documents, exhibits, orders,
 215 opinions, recordings, dockets, and other information that are made, entered, filed, or
 216 maintained by a court in connection with a case or court proceeding.
- 217 (4) "Court record website" means the website for court records described in Subsection
 218 78A-1-204(1).
- 219 (5) "Public court proceeding" means a court proceeding that is open to the public.
- 220 (6) "Public court record" means any court record that is not prohibited by law from public
 221 disclosure.

222 Section 3. Section **78A-1-202**, which is renumbered from Section 78A-2-208 is renumbered
 223 and amended to read:

224 **~~[78A-2-208]~~ 78A-1-202 (Effective 01/01/27). Court proceedings to be public --**
 225 **Notice to public of recording -- Right to exclude in certain cases.**

226 [~~(1) The sittings of every court of this state are public, except as provided in Subsections (3)~~
 227 ~~and (4).]~~

- 228 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a court proceeding is public.
- 229 (2) The Judicial Council shall require that notice be given to the public that [the
 230 ~~proceedings are]~~ a court proceeding is being recorded when an electronic or digital
 231 recording system is being used during [~~court proceedings]~~ the court proceeding.
- 232 (3) The court may, in the court's discretion, during the examination of a witness exclude

233 any and all other witnesses in [~~the proceedings~~] the court proceeding.

234 (4) In an action of divorce, criminal conversation, seduction, abortion, rape, or assault with
235 intent to commit rape, the court may, in the court's discretion, exclude all persons who
236 do not have a direct interest in the [~~proceedings~~] court proceeding, except jurors,
237 witnesses, and officers of the court.

238 Section 4. Section **78A-1-203** is enacted to read:

239 **78A-1-203 (Effective 01/01/27). Audio recording of a public court proceeding --**
240 **Reporting requirement.**

241 (1)(a) An audio recording shall be made of each public court proceeding.

242 (b) An audio recording described in Subsection (1)(a) shall include all open portions of
243 the public court proceeding from the commencement of the public court proceeding
244 through the adjournment of the public court proceeding.

245 (2)(a) An individual may request an audio recording of a public court proceeding.

246 (b) Upon a request for an audio recording of a public court proceeding, the
247 Administrative Office of the Court shall provide the audio recording to the individual.

248 (c) To the extent possible, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall expedite a
249 request for an audio recording if the individual is a party to the public court
250 proceeding.

251 (d) An individual may only be charged a fee for an audio recording as described in
252 Section 78A-2-301.7.

253 (3) This section does not apply to a public court proceeding in the justice court.

254 (4) Before November 30, 2026, the Judicial Council shall report, in writing,

255 recommendations to the Judiciary Interim Committee on:

256 (a) whether audio recordings of public court proceedings should be freely available to
257 the public; and

258 (b) how audio recordings of public court proceedings can be made freely available to the
259 public.

260 Section 5. Section **78A-1-204** is enacted to read:

261 **78A-1-204 (Effective 01/01/27). Requirements for court record website.**

262 (1)(a) The Judicial Council shall establish and maintain a single website that allows the
263 public to search and access all public court records in accordance with the
264 requirements of this section.

265 (b) The Judicial Council shall contract, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Utah
266 Procurement Code, with a third party to establish and maintain the court record

- 267 website under Subsection (1)(a).
- 268 (2) To comply with Section 78A-2-233, the court record website shall provide remote
269 access to all public court records through a network or system that:
- 270 (a) is secure; and
- 271 (b) provides restricted access through security standards developed by the Judicial
272 Council, including a registration requirement under which a prospective user must
273 provide the prospective user's:
- 274 (i) identity;
- 275 (ii) business or residence address; and
- 276 (iii) citizenship status.
- 277 (3)(a) The court record website shall allow an individual to conduct a search by using:
- 278 (i) the name of a court;
- 279 (ii) the name of a party, judge, or attorney;
- 280 (iii) the name of a judicial district;
- 281 (iv) a case number;
- 282 (v) a case type;
- 283 (vi) a filing date;
- 284 (vii) the case status; and
- 285 (viii) for a criminal case:
- 286 (A) the section of the Utah Code under which an offense is charged; and
- 287 (B) the disposition of a charged offense.
- 288 (4) Except as provided in Section 78A-2-301.7, the Judicial Council may not require a
289 person to pay a fee to:
- 290 (a) access the court record website;
- 291 (b) create an account or register to obtain access to the court record website;
- 292 (c) conduct a search in the court record website; or
- 293 (d) download a document from the court record website.
- 294 (5) The Judicial Council shall post a link to the court record website in a prominent place
295 on the website for the Utah state courts.
- 296 Section 6. Section **78A-2-301** is amended to read:
- 297 **78A-2-301 (Effective 01/01/27). Civil fees of the courts of record -- Courts**
298 **complex design.**
- 299 (1)
- 300 (a) The fee for filing any civil complaint or petition invoking the jurisdiction of a court

- 301 of record not governed by another subsection is \$375.
- 302 (b) The fee for filing a complaint or petition is:
- 303 (i) \$90 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader exclusive of court costs,
304 interest, and attorney fees is \$2,000 or less;
- 305 (ii) \$200 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader exclusive of court costs,
306 interest, and attorney fees is greater than \$2,000 and less than \$10,000;
- 307 (iii) \$375 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader is \$10,000 or more;
- 308 (iv) except as provided in Subsection (1)(b)(v), \$325 if the petition is filed for an
309 action described in Title 81, Chapter 4, Dissolution of Marriage;
- 310 (v) \$35 for a petition for temporary separation described in Section 81-4-104;
- 311 (vi) \$125 if the petition is for removal from the Sex, Kidnap, and Child Abuse
312 Offender Registry under Section 53-29-204, 53-29-205, or 53-29-206; and
- 313 (vii) \$35 if the petition is for guardianship and the prospective ward is the biological
314 or adoptive child of the petitioner.
- 315 (c) The fee for filing a small claims affidavit is:
- 316 (i) \$60 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader exclusive of court costs,
317 interest, and attorney fees is \$2,000 or less;
- 318 (ii) \$100 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader exclusive of court costs,
319 interest, and attorney fees is greater than \$2,000, but less than \$7,500; and
- 320 (iii) \$185 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader exclusive of court costs,
321 interest, and attorney fees is \$7,500 or more.
- 322 (d) The fee for filing a counter claim, cross claim, complaint in intervention, third party
323 complaint, or other claim for relief against an existing or joined party other than the
324 original complaint or petition is:
- 325 (i) \$55 if the claim for relief exclusive of court costs, interest, and attorney fees is
326 \$2,000 or less;
- 327 (ii) \$165 if the claim for relief exclusive of court costs, interest, and attorney fees is
328 greater than \$2,000 and less than \$10,000;
- 329 (iii) \$170 if the original petition is filed under Subsection (1)(a), the claim for relief is
330 \$10,000 or more, or the party seeks relief other than monetary damages; and
- 331 (iv) \$130 if the original petition is filed for an action described in Title 81, Chapter 4,
332 Dissolution of Marriage.
- 333 (e) The fee for filing a small claims counter affidavit is:
- 334 (i) \$50 if the claim for relief exclusive of court costs, interest, and attorney fees is

- 335 \$2,000 or less;
- 336 (ii) \$70 if the claim for relief exclusive of court costs, interest, and attorney fees is
337 greater than \$2,000, but less than \$7,500; and
- 338 (iii) \$120 if the claim for relief exclusive of court costs, interest, and attorney fees is
339 \$7,500 or more.
- 340 (f) The fee for depositing funds under Section 57-1-29 when not associated with an
341 action already before the court is determined under Subsection (1)(b) based on the
342 amount deposited.
- 343 (g) The fee for filing a petition is:
- 344 (i) \$240 for trial de novo of an adjudication of the justice court or of the small claims
345 department; and
- 346 (ii) \$80 for an appeal of a municipal administrative determination in accordance with
347 Section 10-3-703.7.
- 348 (h) The fee for filing a notice of appeal, petition for appeal of an interlocutory order, or
349 petition for writ of certiorari is \$240.
- 350 (i) The fee for filing a petition for expungement is \$150.
- 351 (j)(i) Fifteen dollars of the fees established by Subsections (1)(a) through (i) shall be
352 allocated to and between the Judges' Contributory Retirement Trust Fund and the
353 Judges' Noncontributory Retirement Trust Fund, as provided in Title 49, Chapter
354 17, Judges' Contributory Retirement Act, and Title 49, Chapter 18, Judges'
355 Noncontributory Retirement Act.
- 356 (ii) Four dollars of the fees established by Subsections (1)(a) through (i) shall be
357 allocated by the state treasurer to be deposited into the restricted account,
358 Children's Legal Defense Account, as provided in Section 51-9-408.
- 359 (iii) Five dollars of the fees established under Subsections (1)(a) through (e), (1)(g),
360 and (1)(s) shall be allocated to and deposited with the Dispute Resolution Account
361 as provided in Section 78B-6-209.
- 362 (iv) Thirty dollars of the fees established by Subsections (1)(a), (1)(b)(iii) and (iv),
363 (1)(d)(iii) and (iv), (1)(g)(ii), (1)(h), and (1)(i) shall be allocated by the state
364 treasurer to be deposited into the restricted account, Court Security Account, as
365 provided in Section 78A-2-602.
- 366 (v) Twenty dollars of the fees established by Subsections (1)(b)(i) and (ii), (1)(d)(ii)
367 and (1)(g)(i) shall be allocated by the state treasurer to be deposited into the
368 restricted account, Court Security Account, as provided in Section 78A-2-602.

- 369 (k) The fee for filing a judgment, order, or decree of a court of another state or of the
370 United States is \$35.
- 371 (l) The fee for filing a renewal of judgment in accordance with [~~Section 78B-6-1801~~]
372 Title 78B, Chapter 6, Part 18, Renewal of Judgment Act, is 50% of the fee for filing
373 an original action seeking the same relief.
- 374 (m) The fee for filing probate or child custody documents from another state is \$35.
- 375 (n)(i) The fee for filing an abstract or transcript of judgment, order, or decree of the
376 State Tax Commission is \$30.
- 377 (ii) The fee for filing an abstract or transcript of judgment of a court of law of this
378 state or a judgment, order, or decree of an administrative agency, commission,
379 board, council, or hearing officer of this state or of [its] the state's political
380 subdivisions other than the State Tax Commission, is \$50.
- 381 (o) The fee for filing a judgment by confession without action under Section 78B-5-205
382 is \$35.
- 383 (p) The fee for filing an award of arbitration for confirmation, modification, or vacation
384 under Title 78B, Chapter 11, Utah Uniform Arbitration Act, that is not part of an
385 action before the court is \$35.
- 386 (q) The fee for filing a petition or counter-petition to modify a domestic relations order
387 other than a protective order or stalking injunction is \$100.
- 388 (r) The fee for filing any accounting required by law is:
- 389 (i) \$15 for an estate valued at \$50,000 or less;
- 390 (ii) \$30 for an estate valued at \$75,000 or less but more than \$50,000;
- 391 (iii) \$50 for an estate valued at \$112,000 or less but more than \$75,000;
- 392 (iv) \$90 for an estate valued at \$168,000 or less but more than \$112,000; and
- 393 (v) \$175 for an estate valued at more than \$168,000.
- 394 (s) The fee for filing a demand for a civil jury is \$250.
- 395 (t) The fee for filing a notice of deposition in this state concerning an action pending in
396 another state under Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 30 is \$35.
- 397 (u) The fee for filing documents that require judicial approval but are not part of an
398 action before the court is \$35.
- 399 (v) The fee for a petition to open a sealed record is \$35.
- 400 (w) The fee for a writ of replevin, attachment, execution, or garnishment is \$50 in
401 addition to any fee for a complaint or petition.
- 402 (x)(i) The fee for a petition for authorization for a minor to marry required by Section

- 403 81-2-304 is \$5.
- 404 (ii) The fee for a petition for emancipation of a minor provided in Title 80, Chapter 7,
405 Emancipation, is \$50.
- 406 (y) The fee for a certificate issued under Section 26B-8-128 is \$8.
- 407 (z) The fee for a certified copy of a document is \$4 per document plus 50 cents per page.
- 408 (aa) The fee for an exemplified copy of a document is \$6 per document plus 50 cents per
409 page.
- 410 ~~[(bb) The Judicial Council shall, by rule, establish a schedule of fees for copies of~~
411 ~~documents and forms and for the search and retrieval of records under Title 63G,~~
412 ~~Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act. Fees under~~
413 ~~Subsection (1)(bb) and (cc) shall be credited to the court as a reimbursement of~~
414 ~~expenditures.]~~
- 415 ~~[(cc) The Judicial Council may, by rule, establish a reasonable fee to allow members of~~
416 ~~the public to conduct a limited amount of searches on the Xchange database without~~
417 ~~having to pay a monthly subscription fee.]~~
- 418 ~~[(dd)]~~ (2) There is no fee for services or the filing of documents not listed in this section or
419 otherwise provided by law.
- 420 ~~[(ee)]~~ (3) Except as provided in this section, all fees collected under this section are paid ~~[to]~~
421 into the General Fund~~[- Except as provided in this section, all fees shall be paid]~~ at the
422 time the clerk accepts the pleading for filing or performs the requested service.
- 423 ~~[(ff)]~~ (4) The filing fees under this section may not be charged to the state, the state's
424 agencies, or political subdivisions filing or defending any action.
- 425 (5)(a) ~~[H]~~ Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b), in judgments awarded in favor of the
426 state, [its] the state's agencies, or political subdivisions, [except the Office of
427 Recovery Services,] the court shall order the filing fees and collection costs to be
428 paid by the judgment debtor.
- 429 (b) Subsection (5)(a) does not apply to a judgment awarded in favor of the Office of
430 Recovery Services.
- 431 (c) The sums collected under ~~[this Subsection (1)(ff)]~~ Subsection (5)(a) shall be applied
432 to the fees after credit to the judgment, order, fine, tax, lien, or other penalty and
433 costs permitted by law.
- 434 ~~[(2)(a)(i) From March 17, 1994, until June 30, 1998, the state court administrator~~
435 ~~shall transfer all revenues representing the difference between the fees in effect~~
436 ~~after May 2, 1994, and the fees in effect before February 1, 1994, as dedicated~~

437 credits to the Division of Facilities Construction and Management Capital Projects
438 Fund.]

439 [(ii)(A) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(a)(ii)(B), the Division of Facilities
440 Construction and Management shall use up to \$3,750,000 of the revenue
441 deposited into the Capital Projects Fund under this Subsection (2)(a) to design
442 and take other actions necessary to initiate the development of a courts
443 complex in Salt Lake City.]

444 [(B) If the Legislature approves funding for construction of a courts complex in
445 Salt Lake City in the 1995 Annual General Session, the Division of Facilities
446 Construction and Management shall use the revenue deposited into the Capital
447 Projects Fund under this Subsection (2)(a)(ii) to construct a courts complex in
448 Salt Lake City.]

449 [(C) After the courts complex is completed and all bills connected with its
450 construction have been paid, the Division of Facilities Construction and
451 Management shall use any money remaining in the Capital Projects Fund under
452 this Subsection (2)(a)(ii) to fund the Vernal District Court building.]

453 [(iii) The Division of Facilities Construction and Management may enter into
454 agreements and make expenditures related to this project before the receipt of
455 revenues provided for under this Subsection (2)(a)(iii).]

456 [(iv) The Division of Facilities Construction and Management shall:]

457 [(A) make those expenditures from unexpended and unencumbered building funds
458 already appropriated to the Capital Projects Fund; and]

459 [(B) reimburse the Capital Projects Fund upon receipt of the revenues provided for
460 under this Subsection (2).]

461 [(b)] (6)(a) [After June 30, 1998, the] The state court administrator shall ensure that all
462 revenues representing the difference between the fees in effect after May 2, 1994, and
463 the fees in effect before February 1, 1994, are transferred to the Division of Finance
464 for deposit [in] into the restricted account created in Subsection (7).

465 [(e) The Division of Finance shall deposit all revenues received from the state court
466 administrator into the restricted account created by this section.]

467 [(d)(i) From May 1, 1995, until June 30, 1998, the state court administrator shall
468 transfer \$7 of the amount of a fine or bail forfeiture paid for a violation of Title
469 41, Motor Vehicles, in a court of record to the Division of Facilities Construction
470 and Management Capital Projects Fund. The division of money pursuant to

471 Section 78A-5-110 shall be calculated on the balance of the fine or bail forfeiture
472 paid.]

473 [~~(ii) After June 30, 1998, the~~]

474 (b)(i) The state court administrator or a municipality shall transfer \$7 of the amount
475 of a fine, or [bail forfeiture] voluntary payment under Section 77-7-21, paid for a
476 violation of Title 41, Motor Vehicles, in a court of record to the Division of
477 Finance for deposit [in] into the restricted account created by this section.~~[The~~
478 ~~division of money pursuant to Section 78A-5-110 shall be calculated on the~~
479 ~~balance of the fine or bail forfeiture paid.]~~

480 (ii) The remaining amount of the fine, or voluntary payment under Section 77-7-21,
481 after the \$7 transfer described in Subsection (6)(b)(i) shall be allocated in
482 accordance with Section 78A-5-110.

483 (iii) The Division of Finance shall deposit all revenues received under this Subsection
484 (6) into the restricted account created in Subsection (7).

485 [~~(3)~~] (7)(a) There is created within the General Fund a restricted account known as the
486 State Courts Complex Account.

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

489 (i) to repay costs associated with the construction of the court complex that were
490 funded from sources other than revenues provided for under this Subsection [
491 ~~(3)(b)(i)~~] (7)(b)(i); and

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

493 Section 7. Section **78A-2-301.5** is amended to read:

494 **78A-2-301.5 (Effective 01/01/27). Civil fees for justice courts.**

495 (1) The fee for filing a small claims affidavit is:

- 496 (a) \$60 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader exclusive of justice court
497 costs, interest, and attorney fees is \$2,000 or less;
- 498 (b) \$100 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader exclusive of justice court
499 costs, interest, and attorney fees is greater than \$2,000, but less than \$7,500; and
- 500 (c) \$185 if the claim for damages or amount in interpleader exclusive of justice court
501 costs, interest, and attorney fees is \$7,500 or more.

502 (2) The fee for filing a small claims counter affidavit is:

- 503 (a) \$50 if the claim for relief exclusive of justice court costs, interest, and attorney fees
504 is \$2,000 or less;

- 505 (b) \$70 if the claim for relief exclusive of justice court costs, interest, and attorney fees
 506 is greater than \$2,000, but less than \$7,500; and
- 507 (c) \$120 if the claim for relief exclusive of justice court costs, interest, and attorney fees
 508 is \$7,500 or more.
- 509 (3) The fee for filing a petition for expungement is \$135.
- 510 (4) The fee for a petition to open a sealed record is \$35.
- 511 (5) The fee for a writ of replevin, attachment, execution, or garnishment is \$50 in addition
 512 to any fee for a complaint or petition.
- 513 (6)(a) The fee for filing a notice of appeal to a court of record is \$10.~~[This fee]~~
- 514 (b) The fee described in Subsection (6)(a) covers all services of the justice court on
 515 appeal but does not satisfy the trial de novo filing fee in the court of record.
- 516 (7) The fee for a certified copy of a document is \$4 per document plus 50 cents per page.
- 517 (8) The fee for an exemplified copy of a document is \$6 per document plus 50 cents per
 518 page.
- 519 (9) The fee schedule adopted by the Judicial Council for copies of documents and forms
 520 and for the search and retrieval of records under Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government
 521 Records Access and Management Act, shall apply.
- 522 (10) There is no fee for services or the filing of documents not listed in this section or
 523 otherwise provided by law.
- 524 (11)(a) The filing fees under this section may not be charged to the state, ~~[its]~~ the state's
 525 agencies, or political subdivisions filing or defending any action.
- 526 (b) ~~[It]~~ Except as provided in Subsection (11)(d), in judgments awarded in favor of the
 527 state, ~~[its]~~ the state's agencies, or political subdivisions, ~~[except the Office of~~
 528 Recovery Services,]the court shall order the filing fees and collection costs to be
 529 paid by the judgment debtor.
- 530 (c) The sums collected under this Subsection (11) shall be applied to the fees after credit
 531 to the judgment, order, fine, tax, lien, or other penalty and costs permitted by law.
- 532 (d) Subsection (11)(b) does not apply to a judgment awarded in favor of the Office of
 533 Recovery Services.
- 534 (12) The justice court may not impose any of the fees described in Subsection 78A-1-204(4)
 535 for a public court record from the justice court that is in the court records database
 536 described in Section 78A-1-204.

537 Section 8. Section **78A-2-301.7** is enacted to read:

538 **78A-2-301.7 (Effective 01/01/27). Fees for court records.**

- 539 (1) As used in this section, "court record website" means the website for court records
 540 described in Section 78A-1-204.
- 541 (2) The Judicial Council shall, by rule and in accordance with Section 63G-2-702 and
 542 Subsection 63G-2-203(3)(d), establish a schedule of fees for copies of documents and
 543 forms and for the search and retrieval of records under Title 63G, Chapter 2,
 544 Government Records Access and Management Act.
- 545 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), the Judicial Council may not establish
 546 fees for the search and retrieval of records in the court records website.
- 547 (b) The Judicial Council may, by rule, require a person to pay a fee for:
- 548 (i) each search in the court record website that is beyond 50 for a calendar month; and
 549 (ii) each download of a document in the court record website that is beyond 50 for a
 550 calendar month.
- 551 (4) The Judicial Council may establish fees to search and retrieve an audio recording of a
 552 public court proceeding under Section 78A-1-202, except that the Judicial Council may
 553 not establish a fee or a charge a fee:
- 554 (a) as provided in Subsection (5); or
 555 (b) to a party requesting an audio recording of a public court proceeding.
- 556 (5) The fees under this section may not be charged to the state, the state's agencies, or
 557 political subdivisions.
- 558 (6) A fee under this section shall be credited to the court as a reimbursement of
 559 expenditures.

560 Section 9. Section **78A-9a-101** is enacted to read:

561 **CHAPTER 9a. Judges**

562 **78A-9a-101 (Effective 05/06/26). Definitions for chapter.**

563 Reserved.

564 Section 10. Section **78A-9a-102** is enacted to read:

565 **78A-9a-102 (Effective 05/06/26). Prohibition on hiring of a judge -- Time limit.**

- 566 (1) As used in this section, "judge" means a judge of a court of record in this state.
- 567 (2) If a law firm is representing, or intends to represent, a person in an action in which the
 568 person is suing a government entity of this state, the law firm may not hire a judge after
 569 the judge leaves office for two calendar years, beginning on the day that the judge leaves
 570 office and ending on the two-year anniversary of that day.
- 571 (3) This section applies to any judge or former judge regardless of the date on which the
 572 judge or former judge leaves office.

573 Section 11. Section **78A-9a-103** is enacted to read:

574 **78A-9a-103 (Effective 05/06/26). Judicial financial disclosure -- Reporting**
575 **requirement.**

576 (1) As used in this section, "judicial officer" means a judge or a court commissioner of the
577 justice court, the district court, the juvenile court, the Business and Chancery Court, the
578 Court of Appeals, or the Supreme Court.

579 (2) The Judicial Council shall:

580 (a) by rule, require a judicial officer to submit an annual financial disclosure that is
581 comparable to the conflict of interest disclosure described in Section 20A-11-1604;
582 and

583 (b) post a judicial officer's annual financial disclosure described in Subsection (2)(a) on
584 a website that allows the public to access the disclosure.

585 (3) Before November 1, 2026, the Judicial Council shall submit a written report describing
586 the actions the Judicial Council has taken under Subsection (2) to the Judiciary Interim
587 Committee.

588 Section 12. **Effective Date.**

589 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), this bill takes effect January 1, 2027.

590 (2) The actions affecting the following sections take effect on May 6, 2026:

591 (a) Section 78A-9a-101 (Effective 05/06/26);

592 (b) Section 78A-9a-102 (Effective 05/06/26); and

593 (c) Section 78A-9a-103 (Effective 05/06/26).