



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 22-0777	Date:	April 11, 2022
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Weissman; Van Winkle Sen. Gardner; Fields	Bill Status:	House Judiciary
		Fiscal Analyst:	Will Clark 303-866-4720 Will.Clark@state.co.us

Bill Topic: NEW 23RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGES

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill refers a measure to voters at the 2022 general election to require the Governor to appoint judges to the new 23rd judicial district. Starting in FY 2022-23, the bill increases state workload through FY 2024-25, conditional upon the outcome of the referred measure.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

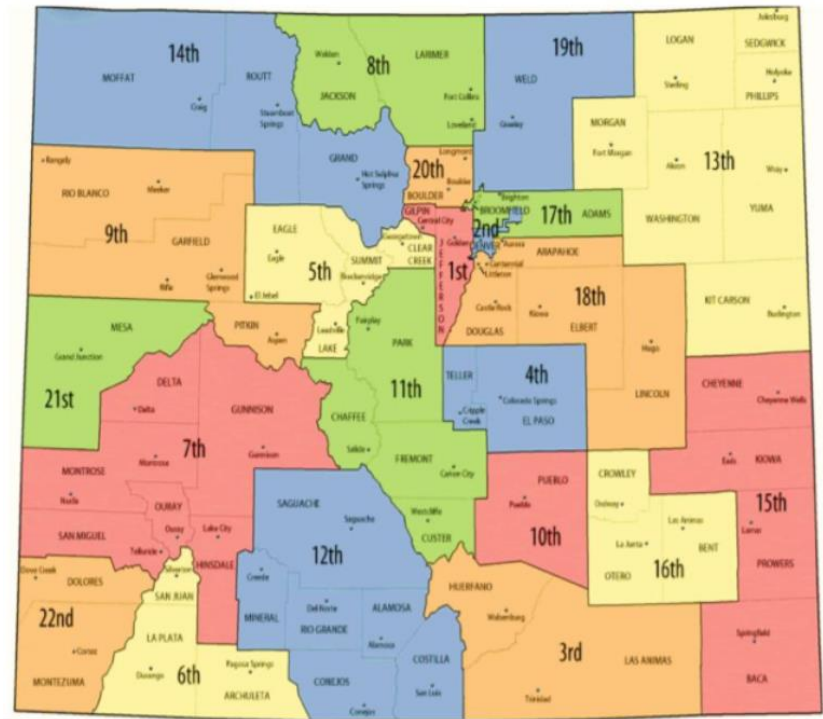
Summary of Legislation

Colorado's 23rd judicial district was created by House Bill 20-1026, which moves Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln counties from the 18th judicial district to the newly created 23rd judicial district on January 7, 2025. HB 20-1026 also created a new judge position, as well as several transition process reporting requirements for the Judicial Department. This bill refers a measure to voters at the 2022 general election to require the Governor to designate judges from the 18th judicial district to serve in the 23rd judicial district. Designated judges must establish residence in the new district.

Background

Colorado has 22 judicial districts and has not created a new district since 1964. The General Assembly establishes the number of judges in each district. The current 18th Judicial District includes Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln Counties and is assigned 24 judges. Figure 1 below provides a map of the current judicial districts.

Figure 1
Colorado Judicial Districts



Source: Colorado Judicial Branch

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in FY 2022-23 associated with placing the referred measure on the 2022 general election ballot. If voters pass the referred measure included in the bill, workload will increase for Governor’s Office through FY 2024-25.

Election expenditure impact – existing appropriations. This bill includes a referred measure that will appear before voters at the November 2022 general election. While no additional appropriation is required, certain election costs are incurred by the state when ballot measures are referred. These include reimbursing counties for increased election costs; publishing the text and title of the measure in newspapers across the state; and preparing and mailing the Blue Book.

Department of State. Workload will minimally increase for the Secretary of State's office to update the state voter registration database and the ballot access system to reflect the new judicial district for district attorney and judicial elections. This increase can be accomplished within existing resources.

Governor’s Office. If the measure required by the bill passes at the 2022 general election, the Governor’s Office of Boards and Commissions will have increased workload to make the required judicial designations under the bill. It is assumed that the Governor's Office may seek funding through the annual budget process, if necessary, based on the total workload of the Boards and Commissions office and the cumulative impact of all legislation affecting the office.

Local Government

Costs will increase for counties to include an additional referred measure at the November 2022 general election. These costs will be reimbursed by the state.

Effective Date

If approved by voters at the 2022 general election, this measure takes effect upon proclamation of the Governor, no later than 30 days after the official canvass of the vote is completed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections
Governor
Judicial
Secretary Of State

Counties
Human Services
Personnel

District Attorneys
Information Technology
Revenue