



*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*  
**LOCAL  
 FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 11-0251  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Schwartz  
 Rep. Coram

**Date:** January 12, 2011  
**Bill Status:** Senate Judiciary  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Alex Schatz (303-866-4375)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF JUDGES IN CERTAIN JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2011-2012</b>	<b>FY 2012-2013</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> August 10, 2011, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 11, 2011, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012:</b> None.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> See Local Government Impact section.		

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill modifies the number of judges allocated, subject to appropriations, to the First and Seventh Judicial Districts. The number of judges allocated to the First Judicial District (Gilpin, Jefferson) is reduced from 15 to 14, while the number of judges allocated to the Seventh Judicial District (Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel) is increased from 4 to 5.

**Revenue and Expenditures**

No state fiscal impact is assessed for the proposed legislation. Statewide funding of the Judicial Department and related agencies, including district attorneys and public defenders, will accommodate offsetting budget changes between judicial districts.

**Local Government Impact**

Counties are responsible for paying capital and associated operating costs for state judicial courtrooms and judicial office space. With this bill, counties in the First Judicial District are relieved of responsibility to expand judicial facilities, while counties contributing to the Seventh Judicial District must provide adequate judicial facilities for a new judge. In the Seventh Judicial District, Delta County, where a new judge is anticipated to sit, has undertaken a study of space constraints

to accommodate additional court space. Results of Delta County's study are not yet available; preliminarily, a rehabilitation or capital expansion project in Delta or another Seventh Judicial District county is a potential consequence of the bill. Any potential costs for capital improvements would be paid by the affected county or counties in the Seventh Judicial District starting in FY 2011-12.

**Departments Contacted**

Judicial  
District Attorneys Council

Alternate Defense Counsel  
Law