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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

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**2019 Senate Bill 458**

**Senate  
Amendment 1**

### **2019 SENATE BILL 458**

This bill authorizes the creation of 12 additional circuit court branches, with four branches beginning operations on August 1, 2020, four on August 1, 2021, and four on August 1, 2022. Under the bill, the director of state courts may determine to which county each additional branch is allocated, so long as the county has passed a resolution requesting an additional branch and, by May 31 of the year in which an additional branch begins operations, has established appropriate infrastructure to support the additional branch's operation.

The bill authorizes the director of state courts to require any county to which an additional circuit court branch is allocated to establish, or apply for a grant to establish, a drug court. The bill creates four new full-time equivalent (FTE) circuit court judge positions and four new FTE circuit court reporter positions on August 1, 2020. The bill also requires the director of state courts to request, in the 2021-23 Biennial Budget request to the Department of Administration, funding for eight circuit court judge positions and for eight circuit court reporter positions.

### **SENATE AMENDMENT 1**

Senate Amendment 1 delays the authorized creation of the additional circuit court branches by one year, so that four branches begin operations on August 1, 2021, four on August 1, 2022, and four on August 1, 2023. The requirements for counties to pass a resolution and establish sufficient infrastructure are likewise delayed by one year.

The amendment eliminates the creation of the new FTE positions on August 1, 2020, and requires the director of state courts to request, in addition to the requests in the 2021-23 Biennial Budget, funding for four circuit court judge positions and for four circuit court reporter positions in the 2023-25 Biennial Budget.

### **BILL HISTORY**

Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 458 was offered by Senator Petrowski on January 10, 2020. On February 12, 2020, the Joint Committee on Finance recommended adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 16; Noes, 0; and passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 16; Noes, 0.

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