

CIRCUIT COURTS

Budget Summary							
Fund	2020-21 Base Year Doubled	2021-23 Governor	2021-23 Jt. Finance	2021-23 Legislature	2021-23 Act 58	Act 58 Change Over Base Year Doubled	
						Amount	Percent
GPR	\$214,725,600	\$211,916,200	\$213,232,300	\$213,232,300	\$213,232,300	-\$1,493,300	- 0.7%
PR	465,400	465,400	465,400	465,400	465,400	0	0.0
TOTAL	\$215,191,000	\$212,381,600	\$213,697,700	\$213,697,700	\$213,697,700	-\$1,493,300	- 0.7%

FTE Position Summary						
Fund	2020-21 Base	2022-23 Governor	2022-23 Jt. Finance	2022-23 Legislature	2022-23 Act 58	Act 58 Change Over 2020-21 Base
GPR	527.00	543.00	543.00	543.00	543.00	16.00

Budget Change Items

1. STANDARD BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS [LFB Paper 101]

GPR	-\$5,936,000
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Governor/Legislature: Provide adjustments to the base totaling -\$2,968,000 annually in the 2021-23 biennium associated with full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits.

2. CIRCUIT COURT BRANCHES FUNDING AND POSITIONS [LFB Paper 102]

	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$3,126,600	16.00

Governor/Legislature: Provide \$1,011,600 and 8.0 positions in 2021-22 and \$2,115,000 and 16.0 positions in 2022-23 for additional circuit court branches and to comply with the requirements of 2019 Act 184. Under 2019 Act 184, 12 circuit court branches may be added over a three-year period (four judges each in 2021, 2022, and 2023). The Act requires the Director of State Courts to request position authority and funding for eight circuit court branches in the 2021-23 biennial budget and for the remaining four circuit court branches in the 2023-25 biennial budget. Under the bill, position authority includes: (a) 4.0 judges and 4.0 circuit court reporters in 2021-22; and (b) an additional 4.0 judges and 4.0 circuit court reporters in 2022-23. Funding is provided for salaries, fringe benefits, and supplies and services.

Modify statutory language to specify the location of additional court branches in Calumet, Dunn, Jackson and Marathon counties beginning August 1, 2021. On March 9, 2020, the Director of State Courts identified these four counties to receive an additional branch. The other eight branch locations (effective in 2022 and 2023) have not yet been determined, but will similarly require statutory language changes to reflect the correct number of circuit court branches in each county.

[Act 58 Sections: 413 thru 416, 9107(1), and 9407(1)]

3. CIRCUIT COURT COST PAYMENTS

GPR	\$1,316,100
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Joint Finance/Legislature: Provide \$438,700 GPR in 2021-22 and \$877,400 GPR in 2022-23 in the circuit court costs appropriation (s. 20.625(1)(cg)) for additional support to counties. Under 2019 Act 184, the number of circuit court branches in Wisconsin will increase from 249 to 253 on August 1, 2021, from 253 to 257 on August 1, 2022, and from 257 to 261 on August 1, 2023. Since the Circuit Court cost program distributes funding based on the number of branches, increased funding is intended to maintain current per branch funding levels in the 2021-23 biennium.

4. JUDGE AND JUSTICE SALARY INCREASES

Joint Finance/Legislature: Provide funding in compensation reserves for the purpose of increasing judge and justice salaries by 3% in 2021-22 (effective January, 2022) and by 4% in 2022-23 (effective January, 2023). These increases would be in addition to general wage adjustments provided to state employees (2% effective January, 2022, and 2% effective January, 2023). Thus, wage increases for judge and justice salaries would be 5% in 2021-22 and 6% in 2022-23. [For additional information, see "Budget Management and Compensation Reserves."]