

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1697

By: Dahm and Bullard of the
Senate

3 and

4 Lepak of the House
5

6 An Act relating to the Administrative Director of the
7 Courts; amending 20 O.S. 2021, Section 16.11, which
8 relates to annual reports; requiring electronic
9 submission of annual report to Legislature;
10 specifying information required for inclusion in
11 certain reports; requiring submission of copies of
12 certain written and electronic communications;
13 establishing certification requirements for certain
14 reports; updating statutory language; and declaring
15 an emergency.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

17 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2021, Section 16.11, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Section 16.11. A. The Administrative Director of the Courts ~~is~~
20 ~~requested to~~ shall submit a report electronically to the Legislature
21 by January 15 of each year ~~commencing in January, 1970 (and in each~~
22 ~~January thereafter)~~, on the following subjects:

23 ~~(a)~~ 1. Whether or not the boundaries of the district court
24 judicial districts should be changed. If a change is recommended,
the report should indicate the counties that should be included in
each district.;

1 ~~(b)~~ 2. The number of district judges and associate district
2 judges that should be authorized for each judicial district~~;~~;

3 ~~(c)~~ 3. If the formula for the number of special judges to be
4 allowed to each judicial administrative district should be changed~~;~~;

5 ~~(d)~~ 4. The case load pending in each district court judicial
6 district~~;~~;

7 ~~(e)~~ 5. The number of cases heard on their merits by each judge
8 of the district court during the preceding year~~;~~ and

9 ~~(f)~~ 6. In making the above report, ~~said~~ the Administrative
10 Director shall, along with whatever other criteria ~~he uses~~ used in
11 making the report, consider the area involved in the judicial
12 district and the distances involved between the places where court
13 is held in ~~said~~ the district.

14 B. In addition to the report required by subsection A of this
15 section, the Administrative Director of the Courts shall submit a
16 report electronically to the Legislature by October 15 of each year
17 that contains the following information from the prior year:

18 1. A list of each case in which the Supreme Court or the Court
19 of Civil Appeals considered a challenge to the constitutionality of
20 or invalidated a statute passed by the Legislature. For each such
21 case, the report shall include the case name, case number, statute
22 challenged or invalidated, and a concise statement of the holding of
23 the Court;

1 2. A detailed accounting of the caseload of the Supreme Court,
2 the Court of Civil Appeals, and the Court of Criminal Appeals,
3 including the total number of cases appealed to each Court, the
4 number of opinions issued, the number of cases pending before each
5 Court as of the date of the report, and the number of opinions
6 authored by each justice or judge;

7 3. A list of each case decided by the Supreme Court in which a
8 special justice took part in the decision. For each such case, the
9 report shall include the case name, case number, special justice,
10 and a concise statement of the holding of the Court;

11 4. A report detailing the management of the Judicial Nominating
12 Commission including expenses incurred supporting the Commission,
13 all meetings of the Commission and the matters considered at each
14 meeting, judicial vacancies for which the Commission submitted
15 nominees to the Governor, and copies of all written or electronic
16 communications between employees of the Administrative Office of the
17 Courts and Justices of the Supreme Court regarding the Judicial
18 Nominating Commission;

19 5. A list of each instance in which a member of the Judicial
20 Nominating Commission recused or was disqualified from participating
21 in the nomination process to fill a judicial vacancy. For each such
22 instance, the report shall include the name of the Commissioner, the
23 vacancy for which the Commissioner recused or was disqualified, and
24 the reason for the recusal or disqualification; and

6. Any other information the Administrative Director of the Courts believes would assist the Legislature in conducting oversight of the Administrative Office of the Courts and the courts of this state.

C. The Administrative Director of the Courts shall certify
under oath that the report described in subsection B of this section
is true to the best of his or her knowledge and information, that
the report contains no material misrepresentations or omissions, and
that the report was prepared after the exercise of reasonable
diligence to obtain the information required by this section.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 7th day of March, 2024.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2024.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives