

**BILL SUMMARY**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB1697</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>ENGR</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Lepak</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>4/17/2024</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>AOC: \$106,000</b>

**Research Analysis**

Engrossed SB1697 requires the Administrative Director of the Courts to submit an annual report with the following information to the Legislature by January 15 of each year:

- a list of each case in which the Supreme Court (OSC) or the Court of Civil Appeals considered a challenge to the constitutionality of or invalidated a statute passed by the Legislature;
- a detailed accounting of the caseload of the OSC, the Court of Civil Appeals, and the Court of Criminal Appeals, including the total number of cases appealed to each Court, the number of opinions issued, the number of cases pending before each Court as of the date of the report, and the number of opinions authored by each justice or judge;
- a list of each case decided by the OSC in which a special justice took part in the decision;
- A report detailing the management of the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) including expenses incurred supporting the commission, all meetings of the commission and the matters considered at each meeting, judicial vacancies for which the commission submitted nominees to the Governor, and copies of all written or electronic communications between employees of the Administrative Office of the Courts and justices of the OSC regarding the JNC; and
- a list of each instance in which a member of the JNC recused or was disqualified from participating in the nomination process to fill a judicial vacancy.

Prepared By: Quyen Do

**Fiscal Analysis**

This measure creates requirements for the Administrative Director of the Courts. According to officials with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the fiscal impact for SB1697 is \$106,000 to fund the salary and benefits for a new FTE to administer the provisions set forth in the bill.

Prepared By: Robert Flipping IV, House Fiscal Staff

**Other Considerations**

None.

