

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:

SB 462

Version:

HASB

Author:

Sen. Daniels

Date:

05/15/2023

Bill Analysis

SB 462 authorizes municipal judges in cities with a population of 200,000 or more to engage in the practice of law in other courts during his or her tenure. The measure also provides that municipal judges may be paid in a manner similar to municipal employees as well as municipal officials. The measure requires any person currently appointed or serving as a municipal judge to complete a certification program as approved by the Oklahoma Municipal Judges Association starting July 1, 2026. The certification shall have a minimum of 12 hours of continuing legal education approved by the Oklahoma Bar Association Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission to include laws specific to municipal courts, trial evidentiary matters, criminal cases eligible for municipal courts, and indigency hearings. All persons currently appointed as municipal judges shall have 1 year to complete the new program. Any judge who fails to complete the program may only impose a maximum \$50.00 fine for all traffic and criminal cases. The measure clarifies that a court not of record is not an "officer" of the municipality and shall not be considered a state officer. Additionally, all municipal judges, including nonlawyer judges, are subject to the code of judicial conduct and legal ethics.

House Amendments

HA's to SB 462 change the deadline to complete the certification program from July 1, 2025, July 1, 2026. HA's also add language relating to a court not of record as well as language subjecting all judges to the code of judicial conduct and legal ethics.

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