

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB632</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>ENGR</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Speaker Hilbert PPT Paxton</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>4/9/2025</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>AOC: \$2,000,000 minimum, additional leasing costs expected</b>

**Research Analysis**

Engrossed SB632 outlines the framework for the creation of two business court divisions headquartered at the Court of Civil Appeals in Oklahoma County and Tulsa County, respectively. The measure sets the annual salary for a business court judge at the same pay as a federal district court judge, which is currently \$247,400 for 2025, and authorizes business court judges to appoint secretary-bailiffs and other personnel approved by the Chief Justice.

The measure also sets the term for business court judges at six years and outlines the qualifications to serve as a business court judge. Qualifications include being at least 35 years of age, being a United States citizen and having at least 10 or more years of legal experience. If a vacancy occurs, the Governor is empowered to appoint another person to serve the remainder of an unexpired term.

Lastly, the measure outlines the authority and jurisdiction of business courts, and lists the types of cases that can be added to a business court docket beginning January 1, 2026. Cases under the purview of a business court must have a minimum claim amount of \$250,000, or \$500,000 for complex cases, and must be resolved within 12 months unless an extension is requested by the disputing parties.

Prepared By: Quyen Do

**Fiscal Analysis**

The Engrossed version of SB632 creates the business court division within the District Courts of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Officials with the AOC have provided the following cost analysis of the measure:

The following costs do not include real property costs to house the Business Courts, as such costs are undeterminable until the locations are selected or specified within the measure. Purchasing, leasing, and/or remodeling costs cannot be calculated pending further legislative instruction.

	Total Cost
Business Court District Judges	\$ 677,760
Law Clerks	825,156
Court Reporters	230,712
Secretary Bailiffs	155,752
Computers, software, misc. expenses for start up, benefit increases, etc.	110,620
	<b>\$ 2,000,000</b>

Therefore, in its current form, this measure is anticipated to have a total cost of at least \$2,000,000 to the AOC, as well as unknown additional costs for building/leasing. The AOC would seek additional funding to defray these costs.

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### **Other Considerations**

None.