

**Bill Summary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB 632</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>CCR</b>
<b>Request No.:</b>	<b>2170</b>
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**Bill Analysis**

SB 632 creates a business court division within the district court of any judicial district containing a population in excess of 500,000. The measure categorizes each division numerically and locates Business Court Division I within Oklahoma County. Business Court Division II shall be located within Tulsa County. Both courts shall be quartered in a location as determined by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The measure establishes a business court judge's salary at the same level as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. Each court shall consist of 1 judge appointed by the Governor. A business judge shall serve a term of 8 years. Each business court judge may appoint a law clerk. The measure assigns arbitration and certain cases outlined in the measure to the business court. The business court is also authorized to hear "complex cases" as defined in the measure. The business court may hear any case involving a controversy equal to or exceeding \$500,000.00. A jury trial may be reserved by a party if claimed within a time period established by court rules. Any party may transfer an action to the business court division of proper venue if the district court judge determines the business court has subject matter jurisdiction over the action. The measure requires nonjury trials filed within the court to be resolved within 12 months of the filing of the action unless both parties agree to an extension. Each business court judge shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor shall choose a nominee for any vacancy from a list of 3 candidates provided by the Speaker of the House. If the Governor rejects all 3 candidates, the Governor may request a subsequent list of candidates from the Speaker. The measure provides for the electronic filing of documents in the business courts and establishes a \$1,500.00 fee for the filing of any action.

**CCR Changes**

The Conference Committee Report for SB 632 provides for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to determine the locations of the business courts and modifies the salary level of business court judges, establishing it at the level of an associate justice of the Supreme Court. The CCR increases the term of a business judge from 6 years to 8 years as compared to the engrossed version. The CCR provides for the appointment of law clerks. The CCR provides that each judge shall be appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate from a list submitted by the Speaker. The CCR provides for the hearing of controversies in the court equal to or exceeding \$500,000.00. The CCR also creates a \$1,500.00 filing fee.

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