

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE  
5 BILL NO. 1697

By: Dahm and Bullard of the  
Senate

6 and

7 Lepak of the House

8  
9 **[ Administrative Director of the Courts - annual**  
10 **reports - electronic submission - Legislature -**  
11 **submission of copies of written and electronic**  
12 **communications - certification requirements -**  
13 **emergency ]**

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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,

1 the report should indicate the counties that should be included in  
2 each district-;

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

5 ~~(e)~~ 3. If the formula for the number of special judges to be  
6 allowed to each judicial administrative district should be changed-;

7 ~~(d)~~ 4. The case load pending in each district court judicial  
8 district-;

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

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

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

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

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1 challenged or invalidated, and a concise statement of the holding of  
2 the Court;

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

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

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

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

1 vacancy for which the Commissioner recused or was disqualified, and  
2 the reason for the recusal or disqualification; and

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

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

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

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18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated  
19 04/18/2024 - DO PASS, As Amended.  
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