

BILL SUMMARY

1st Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB1562
Version:	CS
Request Number:	13131
Author:	Rep. Duel
Date:	3/17/2025
Impact:	AOC: \$2,000,000 minimum, additional leasing costs expected

Research Analysis

The committee substitute for HB1562 outlines the framework for the creation of two business court divisions headquartered in Oklahoma County and Tulsa County. The measure sets the annual salary for a business court judge at the same pay as a district court judge, which is currently \$145,567, and authorizes business court judges to appoint law clerks, secretary-bailiffs and other personnel approved by the Chief Justice.

The measure also establishes the Joint Committee on Judicial Vacancy Appointments that will be responsible for providing a list of five nominees to the Governor for consideration for a business court judge appointment. The committee will be made up of 10 members appointed by the Speaker and President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Eight of the members will be from the majority party and 2 will be from the minority party.

The measure further sets the term for business court judges at eight 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 civil litigation experience.

Lastly, the measure outlines the authority, jurisdiction and filings fees for the business courts. Cases under the purview of a business court must have a minimum claim amount of \$500,000 and must be resolved within 12 months unless an extension is requested by the disputing parties. The initial filing fee is set at \$2500 with a \$50 fee for every subsequent motion filed.

Prepared By: Quyen Do

Fiscal Analysis

The CS to HB1562 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:

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
	\$ 2,000,000

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.