

CHAPTER 122**(HB 238)**

AN ACT making appropriations for the operations, maintenance, support, and functioning of the Judicial Branch of the government of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its various officers, boards, commissions, subdivisions, and other state-supported activities.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The Judicial Branch Budget is as follows:

PART I**OPERATING BUDGET**

(1) Funds Appropriations: There is appropriated out of the General Fund, Restricted Funds accounts, or Federal Funds accounts for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015, and for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016, the following sums to be used for the purposes of the Judicial Branch of the government of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, including the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, Family Court, District Court, the Administrative Office of the Courts, Judicial Retirement, Local Facilities Fund, Local Facilities Use Allowance Contingency Fund, and for services performed by the Circuit Court Clerks' offices, including both Circuit and District Court support.

1. Court of Justice**a. Court Operations and Administration**

	2014-15	2015-16
General Fund	205,633,000	209,033,000
Restricted Funds	49,267,400	49,611,800
Federal Funds	3,599,300	3,611,200
TOTAL	258,499,700	262,256,000

(1) Funds Carry Forward: Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any unexpended balance remaining at the close of fiscal year 2013-2014 shall not lapse and shall continue into fiscal year 2014-2015, and any unexpended balance remaining at the close of fiscal year 2014-2015 shall not lapse and shall continue into fiscal year 2015-2016.

(2) Salary Structure: Included in the above General Fund appropriation is \$8,289,200 in fiscal year 2014-2015 and \$8,907,600 in fiscal year 2015-2016 for salary improvements. The funding shall be allocated in the following manner:

(a) A salary adjustment for non-elected eligible full-time and part-time employees shall be allocated in fiscal year 2014-2015 according to the Chief Justice's Judicial Branch salary structure plan;

(b) A salary adjustment amounting to a percentage value on the base salary or wages of each non-elected eligible full-time and part-time employee on his or her anniversary date is provided in fiscal year 2014-2015. The amount of salary adjustment is determined by each eligible employee's annual base salary or wages on his or her anniversary date, and the following table reflects the percentage of the salary adjustment for fiscal year 2014-2015:

Annual Base Salary or Wages	2014-15
\$0 to \$27,000.00	5%
\$27,000.01 to \$36,000.00	3%
\$36,000.01 to \$50,000.00	2%
\$50,000.01 and above	1%

In fiscal year 2015-2016, a cost-of-living adjustment of one percent is provided on the base salary or wages of each non-elected state employee on his or her anniversary date; and

(c) Any funds remaining from the additional \$8,289,200 provided in fiscal year 2014-2015 and \$8,907,600 in fiscal year 2015-2016 shall be allocated to the elected Circuit Clerks to improve salary parity for the Circuit Clerks with other elected county officials.

(d) Salaries and wages for all judges shall not be increased during the 2014-2016 fiscal biennium.

(3) **Civil Filing Fees:** Pursuant to its authority, if the Supreme Court retains the increase in civil filings fees that was effective in 2008, the additional income resulting from the fee increases, not to exceed \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year of the biennium, shall be deposited into a trust and agency account for court operations. Any revenue generated by these increases in excess of the \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year of the biennium shall be deposited into the General Fund.

(4) **Realignment of Circuit and District Judicial Boundaries:** The Administrative Office of the Courts shall develop and implement a weighted caseload system to precisely measure and compare judicial caseloads throughout the Commonwealth on the Circuit Court, Family Court, and District Court levels for the purpose of recommending a plan for the realignment of the circuit and district judicial boundaries. This plan shall be submitted to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees by January 15, 2016.

(5) **Night Court in Jefferson County:** The Administrative Office of the Courts shall continue the operations and current schedule of night court in Okolona and Middletown in Jefferson County in fiscal year 2014-2015 and fiscal year 2015-2016.

b. Local Facilities Fund

	2014-15	2015-16
General Fund	111,500,000	111,500,000

(1) **Local Court Facility Compensation:** Included in the above appropriation are moneys to compensate local units of government for providing court space and for costs incurred in the development of local court facilities as defined in KRS Chapter 26A and provided in Part II of this Act, and to perform all other acts required or authorized by KRS Chapter 26A.

(2) **Funds Carry Forward:** Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any unexpended balance remaining at the close of fiscal year 2013-2014 shall not lapse and shall continue into fiscal year 2014-2015, and any unexpended balance remaining at the close of fiscal year 2014-2015 shall not lapse and shall be continued into fiscal year 2015-2016.

(3) **Fayette County Courthouse Use Allowance:** The use allowance for the Fayette County Courthouse is contingent upon Short Street in Lexington, Kentucky remaining open to traffic.

c. Local Facilities Use Allowance Contingency Fund

	2014-15	2015-16
General Fund	-0-	-0-

(1) **Funds Carry Forward:** Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any unexpended balance remaining at the close of fiscal year 2013-2014 shall not lapse and shall continue into fiscal year 2014-2015, and any unexpended balance remaining at the close of fiscal year 2014-2015 shall not lapse and shall continue into fiscal year 2015-2016 to provide for cost overruns in authorized court facilities projects not to exceed 15 percent of the use allowance in accordance with KRS Chapter 26A.

TOTAL - COURT OF JUSTICE

	2014-15	2015-16
General Fund	317,133,000	320,533,000
Restricted Funds	49,267,400	49,611,800
Federal Funds	3,599,300	3,611,200
TOTAL	369,999,700	373,756,000

2. Judicial Retirement System

	2014-15	2015-16
General Fund	16,916,600	16,916,600

(1) **Judicial Retirement Benefits:** Included in the above General Fund appropriation are sufficient funds to provide actuarial-assessed judicial retirement benefits pursuant to KRS 21.345 to 21.580.

(2) **Pension Benefit Increase:** Notwithstanding KRS 21.405(5), no pension benefit increase shall be granted to recipients of a retirement allowance under KRS 21.345 to 21.570 on July 1, 2014, or July 1, 2015.

TOTAL - OPERATING BUDGET

	2014-15	2015-16
General Fund	334,049,600	337,449,600
Restricted Funds	49,267,400	49,611,800
Federal Funds	3,599,300	3,611,200
TOTAL	386,916,300	390,672,600

PART II

CAPITAL PROJECTS BUDGET

(1) **Authorization of Capital Projects:** It is the intent of the General Assembly that any capital project proposed by any state government entity, including the agencies and subdivisions of the Court of Justice, shall be authorized by the General Assembly prior to the project’s financing and construction, in accordance with KRS 7A.010, 7A.120, 45.750, 45.760, 45.763, 45.765, and 48.110. Pursuant to KRS 45.760(1), the amount allotted, from all sources, for expenditure on any capital project, including leases as defined by KRS 45.750, shall not exceed the estimated cost as shown in this Act.

(2) **Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee:** Capital construction projects and major items of equipment that are not specifically listed in this Act may be authorized only after submission of the project to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee and in accordance with the other requirements of KRS 45.760(7). Moneys may be transferred to the allotment account of any capital project only after submission of the project to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee and in accordance with the other requirements of KRS 45.760(6). As required by KRS 45.760, all capital construction items authorized in this Act shall be constructed in accordance with this Act, supporting documentation considered by the General Assembly, and Judicial Branch budget records. Any modifications to the scope of a capital construction project or to a lease shall be reported to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee before execution.

Budget Units	2014-15	2015-16
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1. Court Operations and Administration

001. Phase 1 E-Case and Docket Management System Reauthorization
(\$28,100,000 Agency Bonds)

2. Local Facilities Projects

Project	Project Scope
001. Nicholas	10,368,300
002. Henry	12,225,200

(1) **Court Facility Planning Process:** The county shall require the Project Development Board to hire a certified architect not otherwise involved with the project to conduct an independent feasibility study to determine whether the needs of the community and the Court of Justice can best be met through the construction of a freestanding building, or through an addition and/or renovation of the existing court facility. The cost for this study shall be an accepted and approved portion of the planning process, and shall be eligible for reimbursement from the bond proceeds.

(2) **Deferred Funding:** General Fund support to provide operating costs totaling \$586,500, annualized use allowance payments totaling \$2,132,700, and nonrecurring furniture and equipment costs totaling \$1,025,000, less offsetting payments totaling \$97,400 for Nicholas County and Henry County Judicial Center projects is deferred to the 2016-2018 fiscal biennium.

3. Lease Authorizations

001. Franklin County - Lease - Court of Appeals

002. Jefferson County - Lease - Parking

(1) Local Facilities Projects - Authorized: Nothing in this Act shall reduce funding of court facility projects authorized by the General Assembly.

(2) Local Facilities Use Allowance Contingency Fund: For any court facility project which is occupied and use allowance funding is insufficient, the use allowance payments shall be approved from the Local Facilities Use Allowance Contingency Fund. If funds are not available in the Local Facilities Use Allowance Contingency Fund, the Chief Justice may transfer funds from other Judicial Branch accounts in accordance with Part III, General Provisions, Section 7 of this Act to make the necessary payments.

TOTAL - JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET

	2014-15	2015-16
General Fund	334,049,600	337,449,600
Restricted Funds	49,267,400	49,611,800
Federal Funds	3,599,300	3,611,200
TOTAL	386,916,300	390,672,600

PART III

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Expenditure Authority: The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, with the approval of the Chief Justice, may expend any of the funds appropriated for court operations and administration in any lawful manner and for any legal purpose that the Chief Justice shall authorize or direct. All expenditures shall conform with Part III, General Provisions, Section 7 of this Act. No executive agency of state government shall have the power to restrict or limit the expenditure of funds appropriated to the Judicial Branch of government.

2. Severability of Budget Provisions: Appropriation items and sums in this Act conform to KRS 48.311. If any section, any subsection, or any provision thereof shall be invalid or unconstitutional, the decision of the courts shall not affect or impair any of the remaining sections, subsections, or provisions.

3. Duplicate Appropriations: Any appropriation item and sum in this Act and in an appropriation provision in another Act of the 2014 Regular Session of the General Assembly which constitutes a duplicate appropriation shall be governed by KRS 48.312.

4. Priority of Individual Appropriations: KRS 48.313 shall control when a total or subtotal figure in this Act conflicts with the sum of the appropriations of which it consists.

5. Carry Forward of Restricted and Federal Funds: Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any unexpended balance remaining in the Court's Restricted Funds accounts or Federal Funds accounts at the close of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014, and June 30, 2015, shall not lapse and shall continue into the next fiscal year.

6. Final Budget Document: The Chief Justice shall cause the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts to prepare a final budget document reflecting the 2014-2016 biennial budget of the Court of Justice. A copy shall be provided to the Legislative Research Commission and an informational copy shall be furnished to the Finance and Administration Cabinet within 60 days of the adjournment of the 2014 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

7. Transferability of Funds: The Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of Kentucky may transfer funds among three appropriation units within the Judicial Branch. These are: Court Operations and Administration, Local Facilities Fund, and Local Facilities Use Allowance Contingency Fund. The Chief Justice may transfer funds from any appropriation unit to a capital project, lease, or lease-purchase only if that capital project, lease, or lease-purchase has been authorized by the General Assembly.

8. Appropriations Revisions: Proposed revisions to Restricted Funds and Federal Funds appropriations in this Act shall be made and reported pursuant to KRS 48.630(10). The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall notify on a timely basis the Legislative Research Commission of the most current estimates of anticipated receipts for the affected fiscal year and an accompanying statement which explains variations from the anticipated amount.

9. Maximum Salary of Trial Commissioners: Notwithstanding KRS 24A.100(3), funds are included to continue the statutory maximum salary of trial commissioners as provided for in the Judicial Branch Budget Recommendation.

10. Issuance of Paychecks to Employees: Notwithstanding 101 KAR 2:095, Section 10, the state payroll that would normally be scheduled to be paid on June 30, 2014, and June 30, 2015, shall not be issued prior to July 1, 2014, and July 1, 2015.

PART IV

BUDGET REDUCTION OR SURPLUS EXPENDITURE PLAN

The Judicial Branch shall participate in any Budget Reduction Plan or Surplus Expenditure Plan in accordance with the provisions of KRS Chapter 48.

Signed by Governor April 11, 2014.