

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

LS 7124
BILL NUMBER: SB 291

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 15, 2026
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Court Security.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Baldwin
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill repeals current code concerning the Supreme Court sheriff.

The bill allows the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals to each appoint a court marshal and allows each appointed court marshal to hire deputy court marshals. It requires a court marshal to ensure the safety and security of the court. It requires a Supreme Court marshal and a Court of Appeals court marshal to carry out certain responsibilities. It provides that a court marshal is entitled to qualified immunity for acts performed in the course of official duties. It also specifies that a court marshal has limited police powers and is required to notify the local law enforcement agency as soon as practicable when a security threat is detected.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Supreme Court Marshal:* The bill replacing the Supreme Court sheriff with the Supreme Court marshal may have an increase in workload and expenditures for the Supreme Court. The estimated salary for a court marshal is \$100,000, which could be mitigated if the court appoints existing staff to the position. The court marshal may hire additional staff to the extent the Supreme Court needs additional security. Any expenditure and workload increase should be done within current resources.

Currently, the Supreme Court has a security team. The bill changes the appointment term from 2 years to the discretion of the Supreme Court. It makes Supreme Court marshal separate from the Court of Appeals. (Current law provides the sheriff of the Supreme Court is the sheriff of the Court of Appeals.) Also, it gives limited police powers and immunity to a Supreme Court marshal under the bill's provisions.

Court of Appeals Marshal: The creation of a Court of Appeals marshal may have expenditure and workload increase for the Court of Appeals. It would have similar duties as the Supreme Court marshal. The estimated salary for a court marshal is \$100,000, which could be mitigated if the court appoints existing staff to the position. The marshal for the Court of Appeals may hire additional deputy marshals to the extent of the Court of Appeals needs additional security. Any expenditure and workload increase should be done within current resources. [Currently, there is a security team in place for the Court of Appeals.]

Fees: The bill repeals the rules on postage, mileage and fees for service, and compensation for fuel, stationery, and extra services of the Supreme Court sheriff. The removal of these fees should have a minimal impact on expenditures for the Supreme Court.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Deputies:* The bill repeals county sheriffs and coroners from acting as deputy Supreme Court sheriffs. This repeal will have minimal impact to current workload.

Notify of Threat: Local law enforcement agencies may have an increase in workload to the extent a court marshal notify law enforcement about a security threat. Any workload increase should be done within current resources.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Supreme Court; Court of Appeals.

Local Agencies Affected: Counties; Local law enforcement.

Information Sources: State Staffing Table, January 2026.

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