

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

LS 7124

BILL NUMBER: SB 291

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 22, 2026

BILL AMENDED: Jan 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Court Security.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Baldwin

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Personal Information* - This bill establishes a procedure to prevent certain personal information of a protected judicial individual from being publically available by a public agency. Creates a civil cause of action against a public agency that fails to remove certain personal information of a protected individual. Makes it a Class A misdemeanor for unlawfully publishing certain personal information.

Court Marshals - The 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 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. It allows the marshal appointed by the Court of Appeals to provide for the safety and security of the tax court.

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.

(Revised) Penalty Provision: A Level 6 felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from 6 to 30 months, with an advisory sentence of 1 year. The sentence depends on mitigating and aggravating circumstances. Assuming offenders can be housed in existing facilities with no additional staff, the marginal cost for medical care, food, and clothing is approximately \$4,825 annually, or \$13.22 daily, per prisoner. However, any additional expenditures are likely to be small.

Explanation of State Revenues: *(Revised) Penalty Provision:* The bill makes publishing the personal information of a current or retired judge; a current or retired justice, judge, or magistrate of a federal court in Indiana, and spouse, child, or dependent in the same household as the above individuals as Class A misdemeanor with an upgrade to a Level 6 Felony if it results in serious bodily harm. Any criminal penalty revenue is expected to be small.

If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state General Fund (from court fees) would increase. The maximum fine for a Class A misdemeanor is \$5,000 and a Level 6 felony is \$10,000. The total fee revenue per case would range between \$113 and \$138. The amount of court fees deposited will vary depending on whether the case is filed in a court of record or a municipal court. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in criminal, juvenile, and civil violation cases.](#)

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.

(Revised) Penalty Provision: A Class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in jail.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *(Revised) Penalty Provision:* If additional court actions result in a guilty verdict, certain local units will collect more revenue. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in criminal, juvenile, and civil violation cases.](#)

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

Local Agencies Affected: Counties; Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies;

Information Sources: State Staffing Table, January 2026. Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana Trial Court Fee

Manual; Department of Corrections; Indiana Gateway for Government Units, 2023 Annual Financial Reports, <https://gateway.ifionline.org/public/download.aspx>; Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2023 Annual Survey of Jails Data Series, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/series/7>.

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