
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1160 (Durazo) - Judicial Council: eviction data reporting

Version: March 23, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: April 20, 2026

Policy Vote: JUD. 12 - 0
Mandate: No
Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: SB 1160 would require county courts to report to the Judicial Council specified data on unlawful detainer cases filed on and after January 1, 2027, including the number of unlawful detainer cases filed each month, cases that were subject to trial or pretrial judgment, and cases that were dismissed before trial at the plaintiff's request.

Fiscal Impact: This bill would place major workload requirements on all superior courts and Judicial Council. Judicial Council estimates a one-time cost of \$6.1 million to gather the data and create and deploy the system updates and an ongoing, annual cost of \$5.4 million to regularly gather, validate, and securely post the data specified in the bill. As there is no delayed implementation in the bill, the court's case management systems would not be able to capture this information for at least two years while the updates are deployed statewide

Preliminary information from the Los Angeles Superior Court, which does collect this information and posts some of the data on its website, indicates costs of approximately \$150,000 annually. Where counties do not have in-house data collection expertise, costs would likely be incurred on a contract basis.

Background: An unlawful detainer action is a civil court action involving the possession of real property by a commercial or residential tenant whose original entry was lawful but whose right to the possession has terminated.

Judicial Council maintains public data on the annual caseload of the courts, with a particular emphasis on the number and types of cases that are filed and disposed of in the courts. The Court Statistics Report is published annually and available on the Judicial Council Website and includes information on unlawful detainers, including statistics on civil filings and dispositions, caseload clearance rates, time to disposition, and the stage of the case at disposition. Based on information in the report, in 2025, statewide, there were:

- 1) 128,894 unlawful detainer filings;
- 2) 104,140 total dispositions of unlawful detainers (44 percent were disposed of in less than 45 days)
- 3) 94,380 were disposed of before trial;
- 4) 9,760 were disposed by court trial; 268 by jury trial.

Proposed Law: This bill would require courts to additionally report to the Judicial Council every month the total number of each of the following data points for

unlawful detainer cases filed on and after January 1, 2027, aggregated by the ZIP Code of the premises in the lawsuit:

- a) cases filed each month;
- b) cases that were subject to default, stipulated, or other types of pretrial judgments already being tracked by Judicial Council;
- c) cases that went to trial, and of those that went to trial, how many were a bench trial and how many were a jury trial; and
- d) cases that were dismissed before trial at the plaintiff's request.

Related Legislation: This bill is substantially similar to SB 768 (Durazo), 2025. That bill additionally required the reporting of:

- (1) cases in which defendants were represented by counsel at case resolution, including, but not limited to, at the point of settlement or when a decision was made at trial;
- (2) cases in which landlords were represented by counsel at case resolution, including but not limited to, at the point of settlement or when a decision was made at trial.

It is difficult to determine if the deletion of these provisions can be identified as reducing the fiscal impact of this bill in comparison to SB 768. As that data is not captured in the Judicial Council system, the cost savings to forego its collection is unknown because the overall data extraction is made difficult by not having information available by zip code. SB 768 was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

AB 875 (Gabriel), 2023, was substantially similar to SB 768 and this bill. AB 875 was vetoed. In his veto message, Governor Newsom stated:

...this bill could cost the state millions of dollars and must be considered as part of the annual budget process. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing.

With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure.