
THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 196
Author: Limón (D) and Rivas (D)
Introduced: 8/6/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Judicial Council: 100th anniversary

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution commemorates the Judicial Council's 100th anniversary.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) In 1926, Californians established what is now known as the Judicial Council to bring greater consistency, fairness, and public service to the state's courts, beginning a century of judicial branch governance and leadership to advance the statewide administration of justice.
- 2) In its early decades, the Judicial Council confronted a system that included 768 inferior courts in seven categories, and guided landmark reforms that ultimately enabled voters to approve voluntary trial court unification. By 2001, all 58 counties had operating single superior courts.
- 3) The Judicial Council supported transformative governance changes, including the 2000 Trial Court Employment Protection and Governance Act, which transitioned approximately 17,000 court employees from county to superior court employment.
- 4) In the new century, the Judicial Council has strengthened transparency and accountability with an emphasis on improving statewide court data collection and analysis across all areas of court operations. By approving an open meetings rule, the Judicial Council has expanded public access to its advisory body meetings.
- 5) The Judicial Council has expanded access to justice by supporting myriad other judicial administration programs and services, including the establishment of

more than 400 collaborative justice programs, creation of self-help centers in all 58 counties, and implementation of a statewide Language Access Plan to broaden interpreter services and multilingual resources, among other initiatives.

This resolution honors and commemorates the Judicial Council's 100th anniversary.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/11/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/11/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171
8/12/26 14:03:22

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