

Date of Hearing: August 17, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
SCR 196 (Limón, Rivas) – As Introduced August 6, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 36-0

SUBJECT: Judicial Council: 100th anniversary.

SUMMARY: Honors and commemorates the Judicial Council's 100th anniversary. Specifically, **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) To promote stable and equitable court funding across counties, the Judicial Council's longstanding advocacy led to the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997, which consolidated trial court funding at the state level.
- 4) 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.
- 5) The Judicial Council also supported the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002, which shifted responsibility for more than 450 court facilities to the judicial branch and subsequently helped launch one of the largest courthouse construction programs in state history.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) Working closely with the Legislature, the Judicial Council continues to improve the court user experience through innovations and partnerships that promote fairness, clarity, and consistency statewide.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800