

**Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents
Budget No. 188
House Bill No. 1022**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2019-21 legislative appropriation	40.00	\$18,384,627	\$1,990,035	\$20,374,662
2017-19 legislative appropriation	<u>40.00</u>	<u>17,983,876</u>	<u>2,946,747</u>	<u>20,930,623</u>
2019-21 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2017-19 appropriation	0.00	\$400,751	(\$956,712)	(\$555,961)

Item Description

Williams County attorney positions - In Section 3 of House Bill No. 1022 (2019), the Legislative Assembly identified \$60,000 from the indigent defense administration fund appropriated in Section 1 that may be used only to provide salary equity funding for attorney positions located in Williams County.

Court case assignments - The Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents provides legal representation for indigent persons in cases where the person has a right to an attorney under the United States Constitution, Constitution of North Dakota, or North Dakota Century Code. If a court determines a person who has been charged with a crime is indigent, the court will assign the case to the commission.

Status/Result

The commission allocated the \$60,000 of salary equity funding evenly among the three vacant attorney positions located in Williams County. The commission hired 2 FTE attorney I positions in September 2019 and October 2019 and 1 FTE attorney III position in December 2019.

The following is a summary of court cases assigned to the commission. The cases shown for the 2019-21 biennium are through March 2020. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the commission has experienced a decline in court case assignments; however, the commission expects case assignments to increase after the pandemic has ended and that total 2019-21 biennium case assignments will be comparable to the 2017-19 biennium. The commission estimates a total of 30,779 cases will be assigned to the agency by the end of the 2019-21 biennium.

Judicial District	2013-15 Biennium	2015-17 Biennium	2017-19 Biennium	2019-21 Biennium
East Central	5,383	6,820	7,436	3,118
North Central	2,530	3,378	3,209	1,147
Northeast	2,180	2,084	1,926	765
Northeast Central	2,434	2,630	2,776	1,047
Northwest	3,396	3,293	2,986	959
South Central	6,488	8,715	8,540	3,187
Southeast	2,196	2,477	2,658	850
Southwest	1,374	1,376	1,236	469
Total	25,981	30,773	30,767	11,542