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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Hall, Ely ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/2018  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 61  
SHORT TITLE Supreme Court Law Library Changes SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Torres

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	NFI	NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Response Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

HB 61 merges the Supreme Court, Supreme Court Law Library, and Supreme Court Building Commission into a single entity for purposes of consolidating the annual appropriations and budgeting process. HB 61 also amends and recompiles statutes pertaining to the Supreme Court Law Library and Supreme Court Building Commission to provide direct administrative oversight by the Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Consolidating the Supreme Court, Supreme Court Law Library, and Supreme Court Building Commission in appropriations, will have no fiscal impact. Consolidating the three agencies' administratively, though, will eliminate the need to duplicate administrative efforts and streamline the management of the Law Library and Building Commission.

According to the Supreme Court, "consolidating the Supreme Court, Supreme Court Law Library, and Supreme Court Building Commission into a single entity will not result in a fiscal impact."

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Included in the House Appropriation & Finance Committee Substitute for HB2 et.al an appropriation for the three agencies in one line item under the Supreme Court. To realize the efficiency gains intended in consolidating the agencies, the administrative structures must be amended as specified by HB 61.

The judiciary further explains that “currently, the Supreme Court, Supreme Court Law Library, and Supreme Court Building Commission each request and receive three, separate appropriations, submit and administer three, separate budgets, and conduct and submit three, separate financial audits each fiscal year. HB 61 would consolidate the law library and building commission into the Supreme Court so that going forward, only one annual appropriation, one budget, and one audit would be required each year.

HB 61 also would recognize the Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court as having direct administrative oversight and responsibility for all three entities. Under the current statutory framework, the administrative oversight of the Supreme Court Law Library is accomplished through a Board of Trustees that is comprised of the five Justices of the Supreme Court. And the administrative oversight of the Supreme Court Building Commission, which is responsible for the care and custody of the Supreme Court Building, is accomplished through a 3-member commission appointed by the Supreme Court with the Chief Justice serving as chair of the commission. HB 61 would eliminate and reform these duplicative administrative structures so that the five Justices of the Supreme Court have direct control over all three judicial entities through a unified administrative structure.”

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

HB 61 has an indeterminate but minimally improved effect on performance, as the streamlined administrative structure may allow for goals to be completed more quickly and easily.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Administration of the Law Library and Building Commission will be streamlined under the framework in HB 61.

The AOC indicates that “HB 61 will eliminate duplicative administrative structures and give the Supreme Court the flexibility to administer the functions of the Court, the Law Library, and the Supreme Court Building through a unified administrative framework.”

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

HB 61 related to the General Appropriation Act of 2018.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None

**ALTERNATIVES**

None

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

The Supreme Court, the Supreme Court Law Library, and Supreme Court Building Commission would continue to operate under three separate administrative structures and would not realize the administrative efficiencies and flexibility intended by HB 61.

IT/al/jle