

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Javcobs</b>
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**

**[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto:billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov)**

*(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)*

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

**Date Prepared:** 01/23/2026 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** SB 35 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

<b>Sponsor:</b>	Sen. Peter Wirth, Sen. Linda M. Trujillo	<b>Agency Name and Code Number:</b>	218 AOC
<b>Short Title:</b>	CREATE ADDITIONAL 1ST DISTRICT JUDGESHIP	<b>Person Writing</b>	Celina Jones
		<b>Phone:</b>	505-470-3214
		<b>Email</b>	aoccaj@nmcourts.gov

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
	\$451,400	Rec.	General

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

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

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>						

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:  
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

##### Synopsis:

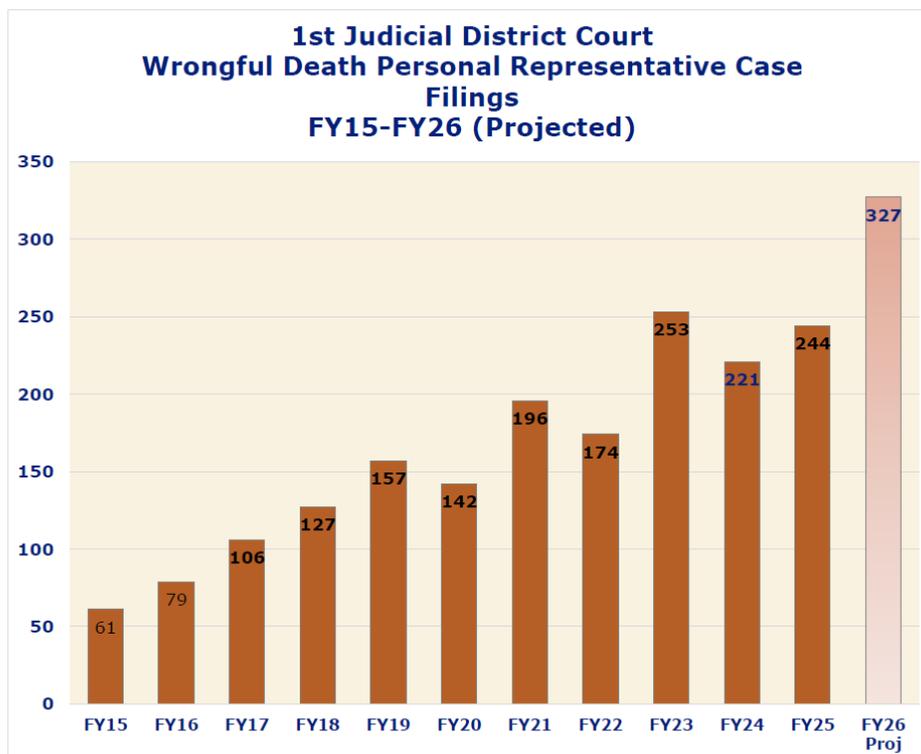
This bill creates an additional judicial position at the First Judicial District Court to be assigned civil docket for complex cases involving wrongful death, medical malpractice, and debt and money due.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Four hundred fifty-one thousand four hundred dollars (\$451,400) is appropriated to pay for the additional district court judge, court monitor, and trial court assistant for the additional judge.

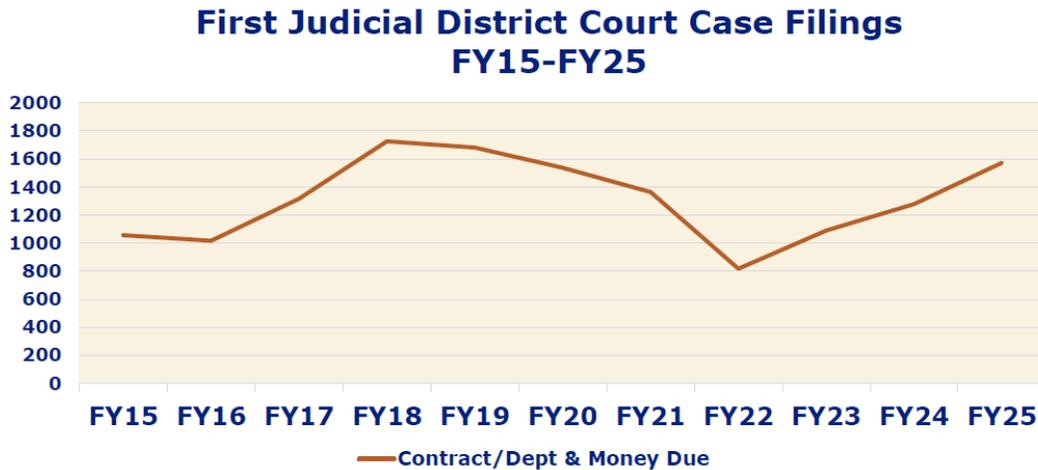
#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The FJDC's civil caseload is substantial, not just due to filing volume but also case complexity. Data shows that wrongful death, medical malpractice and other complex claims increased significantly over the past five years in the FJDC.



There are 228 active pending cases in Division VI that are older than 600 days, and many of these are wrongful death or medical malpractice cases. 80, or 35%, of these cases involve state government litigation and/or a personal representative from another jurisdiction. Debt and money due cases are trending steeply higher following COVID and are anticipated to return to pre-

COVID levels in the near future.



Finally, FJDC is in the rulemaking cycle to adopt a CMO for criminal matters because time to disposition in those matters is high. Trials are expected to increase as the FJDC implements this docket management tool. Due to both workload and limited docket flexibility, FJDC requires an additional judge.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

**ALTERNATIVES**

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

**AMENDMENTS**