

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

S.F. No. 1098

(SENATE AUTHORS: LATZ and Limmer)

DATE
02/06/2025

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Introduction and first reading
Referred to Judiciary and Public Safety

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to judiciary; eliminating certification of certain juvenile court expenses;
1.3 modifying filing, copying, printing, and distribution of certain court papers;
1.4 appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 484.44; 484.51;
1.5 518.68, subdivision 1; 524.5-420.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 484.44, is amended to read:

1.8 **484.44 DEPUTY SHERIFF AND COURT ADMINISTRATOR; ST. LOUIS**
1.9 **COUNTY.**

1.10 There shall be at all times a chief deputy sheriff of St. Louis County and a chief deputy
1.11 court administrator of the district court of St. Louis County and such other deputies as may
1.12 be necessary, resident at the city of Virginia, or the city of Ely, or the city of Hibbing, and
1.13 their appointment shall be made in the same manner as other deputy sheriffs and deputy
1.14 clerks of the district court in said county. The salaries of such deputies shall be fixed and
1.15 paid in the same manner as other such deputies. The office of said deputy sheriff at Virginia,
1.16 Hibbing, and Ely shall not in any sense be considered or deemed the office of the sheriff
1.17 for any purpose except the performance of duties relating solely to proceedings tried or to
1.18 be tried at said places; but the office of the deputy court administrator at said places shall
1.19 be equally deemed the office of the court administrator of court for all purposes ~~except the~~
1.20 ~~filing of papers in actions or proceedings to be tried at Duluth.~~ Marriage licenses and
1.21 naturalization papers may be issued by said deputy court administrator.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 484.51, is amended to read:

2.2 **484.51 PAPERS WHERE FILED; ST. LOUIS COUNTY.**

2.3 ~~After~~ Regardless of the place of trial of any cause is determined, as provided in sections
2.4 484.44 to 484.52, all papers, orders and documents pertaining to all causes ~~to be tried at~~
2.5 ~~Virginia and filed in court shall be filed and be kept on file at the court administrator's office~~
2.6 ~~in the city of Virginia, and all causes to be tried in Hibbing and all papers, orders and~~
2.7 ~~documents pertaining thereto shall be filed and be kept on file at the court administrator's~~
2.8 ~~office in the city of Hibbing~~ can be filed at any court location in St. Louis County.

2.9 In all actions tried at the city of Virginia or the city of Hibbing, the court administrator,
2.10 as soon as final judgment is entered, shall forthwith cause such judgment to be docketed in
2.11 the court administrator's office at the county seat; and when so docketed the same shall
2.12 become a lien on real estate and have the same effect as judgments entered in causes tried
2.13 at the county seat.

2.14 In all actions tried at the city of Virginia or the city of Hibbing, involving the title of
2.15 real estate, upon final judgment being entered, all the papers in said cause shall be filed in
2.16 the court administrator's office at the county seat and the final judgment or decree recorded
2.17 therein, and a certified copy of all papers in the case shall be made by the court administrator
2.18 and retained at the court administrator's office in the city of Virginia or in the court
2.19 administrator's office in the city of Hibbing where the action was originally tried, without
2.20 additional charge to the parties to said action.

2.21 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 518.68, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

2.22 Subdivision 1. **Requirement.** Every court order or judgment and decree under this
2.23 chapter or chapter 518A that provides for child support, spousal maintenance, custody, or
2.24 parenting time must contain certain notices as set out in subdivision 2. The information in
2.25 the notices must be concisely stated in plain language. ~~The notices must be~~ and in clearly
2.26 legible print, ~~but may not exceed two pages.~~ An order or judgment and decree without the
2.27 notice remains subject to all statutes. The court may waive all or part of the notice required
2.28 under subdivision 2 relating to parental rights under section 518.17, subdivision 3, if it finds
2.29 it is necessary to protect the welfare of a party or child.

3.1 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 524.5-420, is amended to read:

3.2 **524.5-420 REPORTS; APPOINTMENT OF VISITOR; MONITORING; COURT**
3.3 **ORDERS.**

3.4 (a) A conservator shall report to the court for administration of the estate annually unless
3.5 the court otherwise directs, upon resignation or removal, upon termination of the
3.6 conservatorship, and at other times as the court directs. A copy of the report must be provided
3.7 to the person subject to conservatorship and to interested persons of record with the court.

3.8 An order, after notice and hearing, allowing an intermediate report of a conservator
3.9 adjudicates liabilities concerning the matters adequately disclosed in the accounting. An
3.10 order, after notice and hearing, allowing a final report adjudicates all previously unsettled
3.11 liabilities relating to the conservatorship.

3.12 (b) A report must state or contain a listing of the assets of the estate under the
3.13 conservator's control and a listing of the receipts, disbursements, and distributions during
3.14 the reporting period.

3.15 (c) The report must also state an address or post office box and a telephone number
3.16 where the conservator can be contacted.

3.17 (d) A conservator shall report to the court in writing within 30 days of the occurrence
3.18 of any of the events listed in this paragraph. The conservator must report any of the
3.19 occurrences in this paragraph and follow the same reporting requirements in this paragraph
3.20 for any employee of the conservator responsible for exercising powers and duties under the
3.21 conservatorship. A copy of the report must be provided to the person subject to
3.22 conservatorship and to interested persons of record with the court. A conservator shall report
3.23 when:

3.24 (1) the conservator is removed for cause from serving as a guardian or conservator, and
3.25 if so, the case number and court location;

3.26 (2) the conservator has a professional license from an agency listed under section
3.27 524.5-118, subdivision 2a, denied, conditioned, suspended, revoked, or canceled, and if so,
3.28 the licensing agency and license number, and the basis for denial, condition, suspension,
3.29 revocation, or cancellation of the license;

3.30 (3) the conservator is found civilly liable in an action that involves fraud,
3.31 misrepresentation, material omission, misappropriation, theft, or conversion, and if so, the
3.32 case number and court location;

4.1 (4) the conservator files for or receives protection under the bankruptcy laws, and if so,
4.2 the case number and court location;

4.3 (5) a civil monetary judgment is entered against the conservator, and if so, the case
4.4 number, court location, and outstanding amount owed;

4.5 (6) the conservator is convicted of a crime other than a petty misdemeanor or traffic
4.6 offense, and if so, the case number and court location; or

4.7 (7) an order for protection or harassment restraining order is issued against the
4.8 conservator, and if so, the case number and court location.

4.9 (e) A person subject to conservatorship or an interested person of record with the court
4.10 may submit to the court a written statement disputing account statements regarding the
4.11 administration of the estate or addressing any disciplinary or legal action that is contained
4.12 in the reports and may petition the court for any order that is in the best interests of the
4.13 person subject to conservatorship and the estate or for other appropriate relief.

4.14 (f) An interested person may notify the court in writing that the interested person does
4.15 not wish to receive copies of reports required under this section after which time neither
4.16 the court nor any other person is required to give notice to any person who has waived
4.17 notice.

4.18 (g) The court may appoint a visitor to review a report or plan, interview the person
4.19 subject to conservatorship or conservator, and make any other investigation the court directs.
4.20 In connection with a report, the court may order a conservator to submit the assets of the
4.21 estate to an appropriate examination to be made in a manner the court directs.

4.22 (h) The court shall establish a system for monitoring of conservatorships, including the
4.23 filing and review of conservators' reports and plans. If an annual report is not filed within
4.24 60 days of the required date, the court shall issue an order to show cause. Unless otherwise
4.25 ordered by the court, a report under this section shall be filed publicly.

4.26 (i) If there is no acting guardian, a conservator that becomes aware of the death of the
4.27 person subject to conservatorship shall notify in writing; orally; or by phone, text message,
4.28 email, or electronic service, all known interested persons as defined by section 524.5-102,
4.29 subdivision 7, clauses (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (ix), and (xi), and the court as soon as is reasonably
4.30 practical, that the person subject to conservatorship has died. The conservator may delegate
4.31 this task under reasonable circumstances.

4.32 (j) If a conservator fails to comply with this section, the court may decline to appoint
4.33 that person as a guardian or conservator, or may remove a person as guardian or conservator.

5.1 **Sec. 5. JUDICIARY APPROPRIATIONS.**

5.2 Subdivision 1. **Supreme court.** (a) \$3,019,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$6,168,000 in
5.3 fiscal year 2027 are appropriated from the general fund to the supreme court to maintain
5.4 core justice operations.

5.5 (b) \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated
5.6 from the general fund to the supreme court to improve systems, processes, and procedures
5.7 necessary to provide access to court information for justice partners. The base for this
5.8 purpose is \$400,000 in fiscal year 2028 and \$400,000 in fiscal year 2029.

5.9 (c) \$2,550,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$2,550,000 in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated
5.10 from the general fund to the supreme court for digital accessibility. The base for this purpose
5.11 is \$882,000 in fiscal year 2028 and \$882,000 in fiscal year 2029.

5.12 (d) The base funding is \$1,750,000 in fiscal year 2028 and \$1,750,000 in fiscal year
5.13 2029 to secure permanent funding for ongoing cyber security costs.

5.14 Subd. 2. **Court of appeals.** \$902,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,852,000 in fiscal year
5.15 2027 are appropriated from the general fund to the supreme court for the court of appeals
5.16 to maintain core justice operations.

5.17 Subd. 3. **District courts.** (a) \$21,182,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$44,178,000 in fiscal
5.18 year 2027 are appropriated from the general fund to the supreme court for district courts to
5.19 maintain core justice operations.

5.20 (b) \$3,611,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$3,611,000 in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated
5.21 from the general fund to the supreme court for district courts to increase the hourly rate paid
5.22 to forensic examiners.

5.23 (c) \$9,224,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$9,224,000 in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated
5.24 from the general fund to the supreme court for district courts to increase juror per diem and
5.25 mileage rates.

5.26 (d) The base funding is \$5,317,000 in fiscal year 2028 and \$5,317,000 in fiscal year
5.27 2029 to provide permanent funding for statutorily mandated psychological services.

5.28 (e) The base funding is \$1,290,000 in fiscal year 2028 and \$1,290,000 in fiscal year
5.29 2029 to provide permanent funding for statutorily mandated interpreter services.

5.30 (f) The base funding is \$788,000 in fiscal year 2028 and \$788,000 in fiscal year 2029
5.31 to provide permanent funding for statutorily mandated jury services.