

Subject Judicial Branch policy proposals

Authors Liebling and Scott

Analyst Ben Johnson (ben.johnson@house.mn.gov)

Date March 30, 2026

Overview

This is the policy bill from the judicial branch. It makes changes to laws allowing the courts to publish certain notices on their website, requiring plaintiffs to serve a conciliation court summons, limiting the requirement to notify public authorities of a divorce to cases involving children, establishing that civil judgements based on orders for restitution do not expire, amending the deadline to file a report and expiration date of the Supreme Court Council on Child Protection, and extending the availability of an appropriation for that council.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Generally. Makes a conforming change related to publication of notice by the district courts.
2	Publication Notice. Establishes that the district courts are not required to publish notice in a newspaper if the branch determines that there is no qualified local paper and may publish notice on the judicial branch website. Establishes that publication on the website meets the requirements for published notice in other statutes and must comply with the timing requirements in those other statutes.
3	Jurisdiction; general. Amends the service requirements for conciliation court to require that a plaintiff serve a summons by first class mail in all cases. Currently, the court administrator must serve the summons in cases where the dispute is \$2,500 or less. Current law also requires that plaintiffs serve a summons by certified mail in cases where the claim exceeds \$2,500.
4	Notice to public authority. Amends the requirement that a person who is petitioning for a dissolution or legal separation notify the public authority if either party is receiving public benefits.

Section	Description
	Limits the requirement to apply only in cases where the dissolution or separation is with children.
5	Effect of order for restitution. Establishes that, when an order for restitution is docketed as a civil judgment, the filing does not expire until it is satisfied or pursuant to a court order. Currently, civil judgments expire after ten years.
6	Reports. Extends the deadline for the Supreme Court Council on Child Protection to submit its report from January 15, 2026, to December 15, 2026.
7	Expiration. Amends the expiration date for the Supreme Court Council on Child Protection from the day after it submits its report to June 30, 2027.
8	Supreme court. Extends the deadline to use the appropriation for the Supreme Court Council on Child Protection from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2027. The change does not increase the appropriation.



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn.gov/hrd | 651-296-6753 | Third Floor, Centennial Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155