Judicial Council *of* California

520 Capitol Mall, Suite 600 · Sacramento, California 95814-4717
Telephone 916-323-3121 · Fax 916-323-4347

PATRICIA GUERRERO
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

MILLICENT TIDWELL
Acting Administrative Director

September 20, 2023

Hon. Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 945 (Reyes)—Request for Veto

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Judicial Council, respectfully requests your veto on Assembly Bill 945, which beginning May 1, 2026 and every other year thereafter, requires each superior court to report specified data to the Judicial Council regarding expungement petitions for individuals who have successfully participated as an incarcerated fire camp member or at an institutional firehouse, requires the council to report the statewide data regarding these petitions to the Legislature beginning June 1, 2026, and every other year thereafter, and repeals these provisions on January 1, 2036.

The Judicial Council very much appreciates the amendments that extended the date by which superior courts must begin reporting to the council; unfortunately, however, the bill only gives the council one month after that data is received to verify and assemble the information reported by the courts and to prepare a report on the data for the Legislature. The council believes that is not adequate time to do this work and respectfully requests that the bill be amended to require the reporting by the council begin on June 1, 2027 and therefor is opposed to this provision of the bill.

The council is opposed unless funded to the data collection requirements in the bill because courts will need to make extensive changes to their case management systems to collect the required data and transmit it to the council for the report. Identifying individual elements (petition date, decision date, and individual filer information) as opposed to the aggregate data elements (number of petitions filed, granted, and denied) will require particularly costly changes to case management systems because currently that data is not collected by courts. The council estimates that the bill will require $2 million in one-time implementation costs and over $3 million in ongoing costs for data validation and storage.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council respectfully requests your veto on Assembly Bill 945.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our office at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,

Cory T. Jasperson
Director
Governmental Affairs

CTJ/SR/lmm
cc: Hon. Eloise Gómez Reyes, Member of the Assembly, 50th District
Ms. Jessica Devencenzi, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Millicent Tidwell, Acting Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California
Ms. Shelley Curran, Chief Policy & Research Officer, Judicial Council of California

Judicial Council *of* California

520 Capitol Mall, Suite 600 · Sacramento, California 95814-4717
Telephone 916-323-3121 · Fax 916-323-4347

PATRICIA GUERRERO
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

MILLICENT TIDWELL
Acting Administrative Director

September 12, 2023

Hon. Eloise Gómez Reyes
Member of the Assembly, 19th District
1021 O Street, Suite 8210
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 945 (Reyes), as amended September 1, 2023—Oppose unless funded and amended.
Location: Senate Third Reading

Dear Assembly Member Reyes:

The Judicial Council regrettably opposes, unless funded and amended, Assembly Bill 945, which beginning May 1, 2026 and every other year thereafter, requires each superior court to report specified data to the Judicial Council regarding expungement petitions for incarcerated individuals who successfully participated in specified firefighting program, requires the council to report the statewide data regarding these petitions to the Legislature beginning June 1, 2026, and every other year thereafter, and repeals these provisions on January 1, 2036.

The Judicial Council very much appreciates the amendments that extended the date by which superior courts must begin reporting to the council, however, unfortunately the bill only gives the council one month after that data is received to verify and assemble the information reported by courts and to prepare a report on the data for the Legislature. The council believes that is not adequate time to do this work and respectfully requests that the bill be amended to require the reporting by the council begin on June 1, 2027.

The council is opposed unless funded because courts will need to make extensive changes to their case management systems to collect the required data and transmit it to the council for the report. Identifying individual elements (petition date, decision date, and individual filer information) as opposed to the aggregate data elements (number of petitions filed, granted, and denied) will require particularly costly changes to case management systems because currently that data is not collected by courts. The council estimates that the bill will require $2 million in

one-time implementation costs and over $3 million in ongoing costs for data validation and storage.

For these reasons, the Judicial Council regretfully opposes, unless funded and amended, Assembly Bill 945.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,

Cory T. Jasperson
Director
Governmental Affairs

CTJ/SR/lmm
cc: Ms. Jessica Devencenzi, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ms. Millicent Tidwell, Acting Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California
Ms. Shelley Curran, Chief Policy & Research Officer, Judicial Council of California