



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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MEMORANDUM

Date	Action Requested
November 1, 2022	For your review
To	Deadline
Data Analytics Advisory Committee	November 7, 2022
From	Contact
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Subject	
Trial Court Operational Metrics Year One Report	

Executive Summary

The 2022 Budget Act (SB 154) requires that the Judicial Council annually report to the Legislature on the operations of each trial court that includes various specified operational and budgetary metrics. The first report is due February 1, 2023. The Executive and Planning Committee has determined that the Data Analytics Advisory Committee (DAAC) is the appropriate advisory group to develop the report for the council because workload and performance metrics are within the DAAC's expertise and area of focus. Given the short timeframe until the first report is due, DAAC should report on a set of metrics that draws on existing data sources be adopted for the year one report; due February 1, 2023. Additionally, DAAC should begin work to consider if additional metrics would be informative for year 2 and ongoing reporting.

Background

The 2022 Budget Act¹ included language requiring the Judicial Council to annually report to the Legislature on trial court operations and specified a set of metrics that “shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following: time to disposition and case clearance rates by case type, backlogs by case type, court hours of operations including public counter hours, staff vacancy rates by classification, fund balance detail from the prior fiscal year, calculated funding level of each court and the percent of funding actually provided to each court, and funding level of each trial court as measured by the Judicial Council-approved workload formula.” The Budget Act further specified that the report be submitted no later than February 1 and reflect metrics from the prior fiscal year.

During the pandemic, a small group of court executives provided valuable feedback on court operational metrics that would show areas of backlog and other workload impacts resulting from pandemic-related changes in operations. The discussion evolved as the pandemic shifted into new phases and forms the basis of the proposed metrics for the year one report. Underlying all discussions, the group outlined a set of guiding principles for metrics. Those included:

- Focus on increasing public access to courts;
- Take a wider perspective beyond the pandemic;
- Ensure data points are practical to measure (leverage existing data when appropriate); and
- Consider metrics that directly measure court outcomes.

The group’s discussions form the foundation of the current proposal.

Role of the Data Analytics Advisory Committee

The Data Analytics Advisory Committee was formed by rule of court in March 2022. The committee’s charge includes, among other things, “develop[ing] and recommend[ing] performance measures, studies, and methodologies to measure and report on court administration, practices, and procedures.”²

The committee’s membership was appointed in September 2022. The committee sought and received dispensation from the Executive and Planning Committee (E&P) to begin working on this report, a necessary step since this committee does not yet have an annual agenda.

¹ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB154

² https://www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=ten&linkid=rule10_68

Proposed Metrics and Measures

The proposed metrics are taken verbatim from the Budget bill language. The proposed measures represent data that is currently reported by trial courts and that are responsive to the reporting requirements.

Metric	Proposed measure, year 1 report
<i>Time to disposition by casetype</i>	Currently reported in the Court Statistics Report; by court and casetype, in the casetypes for which there are disposition standards.
<i>Case clearance rates by case type</i>	Clearance/backlog data through June 2022 ³
<i>Backlogs by case type</i>	Clearance/backlog data through June 2022 ⁴
<i>Court hours of operations including public counter hours</i>	Information collected via survey of the courts at a specific point in time.
<i>Staff vacancy rates by classification</i>	Vacancy data as reported in Schedule 7A.
<i>Fund balance detail from the prior fiscal year</i>	As stated in the metric.
<i>Calculated funding level of each court and the percent of funding actually provided to each court and funding level of each trial court as measured by the Judicial Council-approved workload formula.</i>	As stated in the metric.

³ These data were previously reported to Legislature in March 2022 and formed the basis of allocations to trial courts to address COVID-related backlog.

⁴ Ibid.

Recommendation

DAAC should report on the metrics outlined in this memo for the report due February 1, 2023. Additionally, DAAC should formally add this item to its annual agenda for the coming year and immediately commence work on considering potential additional metrics for years 2 and ongoing.