
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2019 Wisconsin Act 184
2019 Assembly Bill 470

**Creating Additional Circuit Court
Branches**

2019 Wisconsin Act 184 authorizes the creation of 12 additional circuit court branches, with four branches beginning operations on August 1, 2021, four on August 1, 2022, and four on August 1, 2023. Under the act, the director of state courts may determine to which county each additional branch is allocated, so long as the county has passed a resolution requesting an additional branch and, by May 31 of the year in which an additional branch begins operations, has established appropriate infrastructure to support the additional branch's operation.

The act authorizes the director of state courts to require any county to which an additional circuit court branch is allocated to establish, or apply for a grant to establish, a drug court. The act requires the director of state courts to request funding for eight circuit court judge positions and eight circuit court reporter positions in the 2021-23 biennial budget, and funding for four circuit court judge positions and four circuit court reporter positions in the 2023-25 biennial budget.

Effective date: March 7, 2020

PJH:mca;jal