

The Supreme Court of Montana
Office of the Court Administrator

Beth McLaughlin
Court Administrator



301 South Park
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, Montana 59620-3002
Telephone (406) 841-2950
FAX (406) 841-2955

January 11, 2022

TO: Cathy Duncan, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Section D, Finance Subcommittee

FROM: Beth McLaughlin
Supreme Court Administrator

RE: HB693 Required Report

Attached is the report of open general civil cases (DV) required by HB693. The report is directly generated from the Full Court case management system using the parameters of "every civil case in an open status" as of December 31, 2021. The report is broken down by Judicial District and counties within a given District. The committee should be aware of the following limitations to this report:

- Litigants filing a civil case have three years in which to serve the other party following the filing and opening of a case in the system. Cases reflected in this report may not yet be served on the responding party.
- Clerks of the District Courts are responsible for closing cases resolved either by a court decision or via other means (settlement agreements, party did not pursue the case, etc.). However, significant workloads in many county offices create administrative backlogs for clerks. You will note several more rural counties with a significant number of older open cases. It is highly likely these are *not* active cases, but cases that should be administratively closed by the Clerk of the District Court in that county.
- For context, almost 24,000 civil cases were filed in Montana's District Courts in 2020. This represents about 40% of the total caseload.

Please let me know if the committee needs additional information.

Pending Civil Cases - Q4 2021

District # / Court Name	2 Yrs Pending	3 Yrs Pending	4 Yrs Pending	5+ Yrs Pending	Grand Total
1	154	40	16	29	239
Broadwater County District Court	16	7	6	10	39
Lewis & Clark County District Court	138	33	10	19	200
2	106	74	41	40	261
Butte-Silver Bow County District Court	106	74	41	40	261
3	27	17	7	3	54
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County District Court	17	13	5	2	37
Granite County District Court	4	2		1	7
Powell County District Court	6	2	2		10
4	272	75	24	36	407
Mineral County District Court	16			1	17
Missoula County District Court	256	75	24	35	390
5	25	6	4	5	40
Beaverhead County District Court	7	1	1		9
Jefferson County District Court	11	3	3	2	19
Madison County District Court	7	2		3	12
6	28	5	1	5	39
Park County District Court	25	4	1	1	31
Sweet Grass County District Court	3	1		4	8
7	39	18	21	197	275
Dawson County District Court	15		9	92	116
McCone County District Court	2	2		4	8
Prairie County District Court	5		1	1	7
Richland County District Court	16	14	11	93	134
Wibaux County District Court	1	2		7	10
8	88	37	27	17	169
Cascade County District Court	88	37	27	17	169
9	25	12	3	13	53
Glacier County District Court	5	2		1	8
Pondera County District Court	8	4	1	1	14
Teton County District Court	4	2	1	1	8
Toole County District Court	8	4	1	10	23
10	8	4	4	18	34
Fergus County District Court	7	1			8
Judith Basin County District Court			4	18	22
Petroleum County District Court	1	3			4
11	161	61	26	8	256
Flathead County District Court	161	61	26	8	256
12	32	9	9	12	62
Chouteau County District Court	12		7	4	23
Hill County District Court	20	4	1	1	26
Liberty County District Court		5	1	7	13
13	129	65	26	98	318
Yellowstone County District Court	129	65	26	98	318
14	23	5	5	14	47
Golden Valley County District Court	2		1	3	6
Meagher County District Court	3		1	3	7
Musselshell County District Court	11	3		4	18
Wheatland County District Court	7	2	3	4	16
15	40	28	44	116	228
Daniels County District Court	2				2
Roosevelt County District Court	17	10	12	14	53
Sheridan County District Court	21	18	32	102	173

District # / Court Name	2 Yrs Pending	3 Yrs Pending	4 Yrs Pending	5+ Yrs Pending	Grand Total
16	19	7	3	9	38
Carter County District Court		1			1
Custer County District Court	5		1		6
Fallon County District Court	1				1
Garfield County District Court	2			2	4
Powder River County District Court	1	1			2
Rosebud County District Court	6	1	1	2	10
Treasure County District Court	4	4	1	5	14
17	24	14	5	3	46
Blaine County District Court	9	8	4	2	23
Phillips County District Court	2	3		1	6
Valley County District Court	13	3	1		17
18	75	31	13	12	131
Gallatin County District Court	75	31	13	12	131
19	28	10	4	12	54
Lincoln County District Court	28	10	4	12	54
20	37	16	12	12	77
Lake County District Court	28	5	3	5	41
Sanders County District Court	9	11	9	7	36
21	75	53	18	4	150
Ravalli County District Court	75	53	18	4	150
22	20	11	3	10	44
Big Horn County District Court	4	3		2	9
Carbon County District Court	5	3	1	3	12
Stillwater County District Court	11	5	2	5	23
23	78	31	7	8	124
Asbestos Claims District Court	78	31	7	8	124
Grand Total	1,513	629	323	681	3,146