

The Supreme Court of Montana
Office of the Court Administrator

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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 March 31, 2022. 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, 2,795 civil cases were filed in Montana's District Courts in the first quarter of 2022 and 3,022 were closed.

Please let me know if the committee needs additional information.

Pending Civil Cases - Q1 2022

District # / Court Name	2 Yrs Pending	3 Yrs Pending	4 Yrs Pending	5+ Yrs Pending	Grand Total
1	181	49	20	30	280
Broadwater County District Court	21	6	7	11	45
Lewis & Clark County District Court	160	43	13	19	235
2	121	60	51	44	276
Butte-Silver Bow County District Court	121	60	51	44	276
3	37	16	10	5	68
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County District Court	23	11	7	3	44
Granite County District Court	5	2		1	8
Powell County District Court	9	3	3	1	16
4	175	76	17	24	292
Mineral County District Court	2				2
Missoula County District Court	173	76	17	24	290
5	28	8	2	5	43
Beaverhead County District Court	8	3			11
Jefferson County District Court	10	3	2	2	17
Madison County District Court	10	2		3	15
6	33	7		5	45
Park County District Court	27	6		2	35
Sweet Grass County District Court	6	1		3	10
7	37	20	18	182	257
Dawson County District Court	13	1	5	76	95
McCone County District Court	2	2		4	8
Prairie County District Court	7			1	8
Richland County District Court	15	17	13	94	139
Wibaux County District Court				7	7
8	127	35	29	19	210
Cascade County District Court	127	35	29	19	210
9	15	10	2	14	41
Glacier County District Court	5	2		1	8
Pondera County District Court	6	5		1	12
Teton County District Court	3	2		2	7
Toole County District Court	1	1	2	10	14
10	10	4	5	18	37
Fergus County District Court	7	1			8
Judith Basin County District Court	1		4	18	23
Petroleum County District Court	2	3	1		6
11	146	54	25	11	236
Flathead County District Court	146	54	25	11	236
12	35	6	8	15	64
Chouteau County District Court	13	1	4	7	25
Hill County District Court	21		3	1	25
Liberty County District Court	1	5	1	7	14
13	132	60	35	98	325
Yellowstone County District Court	132	60	35	98	325
14	13	4	6	12	35
Golden Valley County District Court			1	2	3
Meagher County District Court	3		1	3	7
Musselshell County District Court	3	3		3	9
Wheatland County District Court	7	1	4	4	16
15	44	25	42	122	233
Daniels County District Court	1	1			2
Roosevelt County District Court	15	9	13	14	51
Sheridan County District Court	28	15	29	108	180

Pending Civil Cases - Q1 2022

District # / Court Name	2 Yrs Pending	3 Yrs Pending	4 Yrs Pending	5+ Yrs Pending	Grand Total
16	24	7	4	9	44
Carter County District Court		1			1
Custer County District Court	5		1		6
Fallon County District Court	1	1			2
Garfield County District Court	3			2	5
Powder River County District Court	1	1			2
Rosebud County District Court	9	1	1	2	13
Treasure County District Court	5	3	2	5	15
17	23	9	7	3	42
Blaine County District Court	11	7	5	2	25
Phillips County District Court	2	1	1	1	5
Valley County District Court	10	1	1		12
18	76	37	11	14	138
Gallatin County District Court	76	37	11	14	138
19	42	6	7	11	66
Lincoln County District Court	42	6	7	11	66
20	50	15	6	11	82
Lake County District Court	41	6	1	5	53
Sanders County District Court	9	9	5	6	29
21	87	58	20	7	172
Ravalli County District Court	87	58	20	7	172
22	27	11	1	10	49
Big Horn County District Court	9	3		1	13
Carbon County District Court	8	4		4	16
Stillwater County District Court	10	4	1	5	20
23	65	38	28	8	139
Asbestos Claims District Court	65	38	28	8	139
Grand Total	1,528	615	354	677	3,174