

## LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The Judiciary's legislative team brings together representatives of the courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts to enhance the effectiveness of the Judicial Branch's relationship with the General Assembly by serving as the main Judicial Branch contact for legislative matters and by monitoring and analyzing legislation for impact on the Judiciary. The following legislation affecting the Judicial Branch was passed during FY 2009 by the 145<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.

BILL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
SB 25	Provides for the operation of the courts in the event of an emergency that destroys or severely damages one or more court facilities or severely impacts the ability to staff the courts.
SB 36	Revises certain procedures relating to trespass, replevin and detinue claims in the Justice of the Peace Court.
SB 37	Provides for Justice of the Peace Court costs to be set by court rule, rather than by statute.
SB 114	Authorizes the Family Court to conduct national criminal background checks in civil proceedings involving minors.
HB 61 w/HA 1	Provides that the failure to answer a summons for a motor vehicle offense shall not be charged as a separate offense if a capias has been issued or if the defendant's driver's license or driving privileges have been suspended as a result of failure to pay the summons through voluntary assessment.
HB 68	Provides that a conviction for driving while license suspended/revoked shall not be considered to establish habitual offense status if the reason for suspension/revocation was failure to pay a fine for a traffic offense that is eligible for voluntary assessment.
HB 49	Authorizes parties to agree to arbitration hearings in the Court of Chancery and amends the Delaware Uniform Arbitration Act.
HB 151	Eliminates jury commissioners.
HB 220	Adds the Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court or the Chief Justice's designee to the State Employee Benefits Committee.