

HCS SS SCS SB 144 -- JUDICIAL CIRCUITS

SPONSOR: Gross (Byrd)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 10 to 1.

This substitute specifies that beginning on January 1, 2007, there will be six circuit judges in the 11th and 23rd judicial circuits. The family court commissioner and the drug court commissioner positions in the 11th and 23rd judicial circuit will become associate circuit judge positions beginning January 1, 2007; and there will be one additional associate circuit judge in Cass County beginning January 1, 2007.

A state-funded family court commissioner position is created in the 29th judicial circuit and a state-funded drug court commissioner position in the 42nd judicial circuit. The substitute specifies that any drug court commissioner appointed in the 23rd judicial circuit will be a state-funded position.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost to General Revenue Fund of \$74,765 to Unknown in FY 2006, \$502,936 to Unknown in FY 2007, and \$869,993 to Unknown in FY 2008. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will help ease the workload of judges in St. Charles County.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Byrd; and Honorable Daniel Pelikan, Associate Circuit Judge, 11th Judicial Circuit.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Amy Woods, Senior Legislative Analyst