

HB 473 -- COURTS (Higdon)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Local Government

This bill changes the laws regarding courts. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Authorizes Buchanan County to prosecute and punish violations of its county orders in the circuit court;

(2) Allows the presiding judge of a circuit with a diagnostic and reception center operated by the Department of Corrections or a mental health facility operated by the Department of Mental Health as of January 1, 2015, which houses individuals found not guilty of a crime by reason of mental disease or defect and provides sex offender rehabilitation and treatment services to appoint a court marshal; and

(3) Requires, by September 1, 2015, the presiding judge of a circuit court in which a municipal division is located to report the name and address of the municipal division and any other requested information to the Clerk of the Supreme Court on a standardized form developed by the clerk. If a municipality elects to abolish or establish a municipal division, the presiding judge of the circuit court in which the municipal division is located must notify the clerk of the dissolution or establishment and the presiding judge of any new municipal division must complete the required report within 90 days of the division's establishment.