

HCS HB 50 -- 16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SPONSOR: Roeber

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

Currently, the circuit and associate circuit judges in the 16th Judicial Circuit consisting of Jackson County are designated to divisions in specified locations. This bill removes that requirement and allows the judges to preside in the cities of Kansas City and Independence.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that Jackson County has a special venue statute regarding splitting of the district, but it is inconsistent with other provisions in the law allowing judges to ride their circuits so they are not limited to one courthouse. Past circumstances required the passing of the current statute, but those circumstances have changed, and now there is an interest in moving judges around as needed.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Roeber and Hon. John M. Terrence, 16th Judicial Circuit.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.