

HCS HBs 93 & 1139 -- ADDITIONAL JUDGEShips IN CERTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUITS

SPONSOR: Voss

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HBs 93 & 1139.

This bill requires the clerk of the Missouri Supreme Court to notify the Revisor of Statutes of any authorized new circuit judgeships, and the Revisor must publish a footnote listing the authorized judgeships and the corresponding judicial circuits. Any new judgeship authorized under the provisions of this bill will be elected at the next general election and every six years thereafter, unless the judgeship is in a circuit where the circuit judges are selected under the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan.

The bill authorizes the following additional judgeships:

- (1) Three circuit judges in the 6th judicial circuits;
- (2) One additional associate circuit judge in the 23rd judicial circuit. This judgeship will not be included in the statutory formula for authorizing additional associate circuit judgeships. The Governor will appoint the judge, who will serve until January 1, 2029, and a judge will be elected in 2028;
- (3) One additional circuit judge in the 13th judicial circuit. The judge will be elected in 2030 and ever six years thereafter;
- (4) One additional circuit judge in the 24th judicial circuit. The Governor will appoint the judge, who will serve until January 1, 2027, and a judge will be elected in 2026 and every six years thereafter;
- (5) One additional circuit judge in the 25th judicial circuit. The Governor will appoint the judge, who will serve until January 1, 2027, and a judge will be elected in 2026 and every six years thereafter;
- (6) One additional associate circuit judge in the 26th judicial circuit. This judgeship will not be included in the statutory formula for authorizing additional associate circuit judgeships. The Governor will appoint the judge, who will serve until January 1, 2029, and a judge will be elected in 2028 and every four years

thereafter. The bill also clarifies that a circuit judgeship in division three in this circuit is for a term of six years; and

(7) One additional circuit judge in the 32nd judicial circuit. The additional judge will be appointed initially by the Governor, and then elected in 2028.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the population in the circuit has grown 50% since the last time a judge was added, which was in 1975. Because of this, the case load has increased and the circuit needs an additional judge to manage this more efficiently.

Testifying in person for the bill was Representative Voss.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.