

HCS SB 589 -- CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES

SPONSOR: Bartle (Pratt)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute authorizes the transfer of one division of the circuit court in Jackson County from the City of Kansas City to the City of Independence and the addition of one circuit court judge in the 16th Circuit consisting of Jackson County; the 26th Circuit consisting of Camden, Laclede, Miller, Moniteau, and Morgan counties; the 31st Circuit consisting of Greene County; the 32nd Circuit consisting of Perry, Bollinger, and Cape Girardeau counties; and the 33rd Circuit consisting of Mississippi and Scott counties.

The new judge in the 26th Circuit will be initially appointed by the Governor and then elected in 2008 for a six-year term to begin in 2009. The judges in the 31st and 33rd circuits will be elected for a six-year term in 2008. One judge in the 33rd Circuit will be elected in 2006 and the other in 2008.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$903,464 in FY 2007, \$1,385,188 in FY 2008, and \$1,423,426 in FY 2009. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is necessary to provide the circuits with enough judges to alleviate the problems associated with overcrowding in the courts.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Pratt for Senator Bartle.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alex Curchin, Legislative Analyst