

SFA

BILL ANALYSIS

APR 28 1988

Senate Fiscal Agency

• Lansing, Michigan 48909

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Senate Bill 796

Sponsor: Senator Vern Ehlers

Committee: Judiciary

Date Completed: 4-14-88

SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 796 as introduced 4-13-88:

The bill would amend the Revised Judicature Act to authorize increases in the number of judges in several of the State's judicial circuits and to change the date by which a county must approve the creation of additional probate judgeships.

The bill would permit the sixth judicial circuit, which consists of Oakland County and currently has 14 judges, to have two additional judges effective January 1, 1991. The following judicial circuits would be permitted to have one additional judge effective January 1, 1989:

- The fifth circuit, which consists of Barry and Eaton Counties and currently has two judges.
- The ninth circuit, which consists of Kalamazoo County and currently has four judges.
- The 17th circuit, which consists of Kent County and currently has six judges.
- The 27th circuit, which consists of Newaygo and Oceana Counties and currently has one judge.
- The 36th circuit, which consists of Van Buren County and currently has one judge.

In addition, the Act specifies that the additional probate judgeships permitted by Section 803 of the Act cannot be filled unless the county commission adopts a resolution approving the creation of that judgeship and the county clerk files a copy of the resolution with the State Court Administrator not later than the 10th Tuesday preceding the August primary. The bill would amend that provision to change the date of filing to the 13th Tuesday before the primary. (Such a change would be consistent with the filing date for additional circuit judgeships.)

MCL 600.506 et al.

Legislative Analyst: P. Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would result in increased costs to State and local government. The State makes the following contributions to each circuit judgeship:

-- State Salary.....	\$55,000
-- Standardization Payment.....	33,300
-- Retirement Contribution.....	1,925
-- FICA ¹⁾	<u>3,477</u>
TOTAL State Cost Per Circuit Judge	\$93,702

The determinations of the State Officers Compensation Commission for calendar years 1989 and 1990 will have an impact on the State salaries for circuit court judges.

Local costs will include support staff for new judges (law clerks, secretaries, etc.) courtrooms, and equipment.

Fiscal Analyst: B. Bowerman

1) Employer's share of social security tax (FICA) is estimated.

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.