



# HOUSE BILL No. 4716

April 25, 1995, Introduced by Reps. Gire, Martinez, Freeman, Cherry, Harder, DeMars, Brater, Anthony, Brewer, Dobronski, Yokich, Willard, Hanley and Pitoniak and referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Civil Rights.

A bill to amend Act No. 294 of the Public Acts of 1982,  
entitled as amended  
"Friend of the court act,"  
as amended, being sections 552.501 to 552.535 of the Michigan  
Compiled Laws, by adding section 4.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1 Section 1. Act No. 294 of the Public Acts of 1982, as  
2 amended, being sections 552.501 to 552.535 of the Michigan  
3 Compiled Laws, is amended by adding section 4 to read as  
4 follows:

5 SEC. 4. (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2), THERE IS  
6 CREATED IN EACH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THIS STATE A FRIEND OF THE  
7 COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEE. AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED  
8 UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL ADVISE ITS RESPECTIVE OFFICE OF THE

1 FRIEND OF THE COURT IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS  
2 ACT.

3 (2) IF EACH COUNTY IN A MULTICOUNTY CIRCUIT HAS A SEPARATE  
4 OFFICE OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF  
5 THIS SECTION, EACH COUNTY IN THAT CIRCUIT SHALL HAVE A SEPARATE  
6 FRIEND OF THE COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEE. IF THE OFFICES OF THE  
7 FRIEND OF THE COURT MERGE AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 3, THE FRIEND OF  
8 THE COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEES SHALL ALSO MERGE.

9 (3) A FRIEND OF THE COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF 10  
10 INDIVIDUALS WHO RESIDE WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES SERVED BY  
11 THE LOCAL OFFICE OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT. A SITTING JUDGE  
12 SHALL NOT SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE. THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT  
13 COURT SHALL APPOINT THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITH 2  
14 MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE PUBLIC AT LARGE AND 1 MEMBER REPRESENT-  
15 ING EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

16 (A) A COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

17 (B) A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

18 (C) THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

19 (D) THE PROBATE COURT.

20 (E) THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY.

21 (F) THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY.

22 (G) THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

23 (H) THE LEGAL COMMUNITY. THIS MEMBER SHALL BE A MEMBER OF  
24 THE STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN WHOSE PRACTICE IS PRIMARILY DOMESTIC  
25 RELATIONS LAW.

26 (4) A MEMBER SHALL SERVE FOR A 2-YEAR TERM, COMMENCING ON  
27 JANUARY 1. A MEMBER APPOINTED UNDER SUBSECTION (3)(A) TO (D) AND

1 1 AT-LARGE MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR TERMS COMMENCING ON  
2 JANUARY 1 IN EVEN NUMBERED YEARS. A MEMBER APPOINTED UNDER SUB-  
3 SECTION (3)(E) TO (H) AND THE OTHER AT-LARGE MEMBER SHALL BE  
4 APPOINTED FOR TERMS COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1 IN ODD NUMBERED  
5 YEARS. AT THE INITIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE, A MEMBER  
6 SHALL BE APPOINTED TO FILL THE BALANCE OF A TERM DESCRIBED IN  
7 THIS SUBSECTION.

8 (5) A MEMBER SHALL NOT SERVE MORE THAN 2 CONSECUTIVE TERMS.  
9 FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF 2 CONSECUTIVE TERMS, A FORMER MEMBER  
10 MAY NOT BE REAPPOINTED FOR 2 YEARS FOLLOWING THE END OF HIS OR  
11 HER PREVIOUS TERM.

12 (6) IF A VACANCY OCCURS, THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT  
13 COURT SHALL APPOINT A NEW MEMBER FOR THE CATEGORY IN WHICH THE  
14 VACANCY OCCURS TO COMPLETE THE TERM IN WHICH THE VACANCY OCCURS.  
15 A MEMBER APPOINTED TO FILL A VACANCY WHO SERVES MORE THAN 1 YEAR  
16 OF A TERM IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE COMPLETED A FULL 2-YEAR TERM FOR  
17 THE PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (5).

18 (7) AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER SHALL BE REIMBURSED FROM  
19 THE FRIEND OF THE COURT ASSOCIATION FUND ON A PER DIEM BASIS FOR  
20 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS AS APPROVED BY THE FRIEND OF THE COURT  
21 ASSOCIATION, AND ALSO FOR MILEAGE AND MEALS UNDER THE SCHEDULE  
22 FOR REIMBURSEMENT ESTABLISHED ANNUALLY BY THE LEGISLATURE.

23 (8) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AND CONDUCT BUSINESS  
24 THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE IT NOT LESS THAN QUARTERLY. A  
25 MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. A  
26 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE ADVISORY  
27 COMMITTEE SHALL BE GIVEN A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE

1 COMMITTEE ON ANY ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE. IF  
2 A VOTE IS TO BE TAKEN BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE OPPORTUNITY  
3 TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE GIVEN BEFORE THE VOTE IS TAKEN.