



Senate Fiscal Agency
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BILL ANALYSIS

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House Bill 5374 (Substitute S-3 as reported)
Sponsor: Representative William Van Regenmorter
House Committee: Judiciary
Senate Committee: Judiciary

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Revised Judicature Act (RJA) to allow the addition of one judgeship in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, effective January 1, 2009. The Sixth Circuit consists of Oakland County and currently has 19 judges.

The addition of the circuit judgeship would be subject to RJA requirements for county approval before an additional judgeship is filled by election. (Under Section 550 of the RJA, an additional circuit judgeship permitted by the RJA may not be authorized to be filled by election unless the county board of commissioners of each county in the circuit adopts a resolution approving the creation of that judgeship. The county clerk must file a copy of the resolution with the State Court Administrator by 4:00 p.m. of the 16th Tuesday preceding the August primary for the election to fill the additional judgeship.)

The bill specifies that if a new office of judge were added to the Sixth Circuit by election in 2008, pursuant to the bill, the term of office of that judgeship would be eight years for that election only.

MCL 600.507

Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

Based on current judicial salaries, the bill would cost the State the following annual amounts for one new circuit judgeship:

Costs to the State	Circuit Court
Salary	\$139,919
Social Security	5,840
Medicare	2,029
Defined Contribution Retirement	9,794
Total	\$157,582

Salary and benefit costs may change by 2009, however.

Local expenses would include the cost of benefits for judges, support staff wages and benefits, and facility space.

Date Completed: 11-29-06

Fiscal Analyst: Stephanie Yu