

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 851

A bill to amend 1961 PA 236, entitled  
"Revised judicature act of 1961,"  
by amending sections 507, 517, and 550 (MCL 600.507, 600.517, and  
600.550), section 507 as amended by 2006 PA 607, section 517 as  
amended by 2006 PA 101, and section 550 as amended by 1990 PA 54.

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

1       Sec. 507. (1) The sixth judicial circuit consists of the  
2 county of Oakland and, **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2)**, has 19  
3 judges. ~~Subject to section 550, this judicial circuit may have 1~~  
4 ~~additional judge effective January 1, 2009.~~

5       (2) **SUBJECT TO SECTION 550, THIS CIRCUIT SHALL HAVE 18 JUDGES**  
6 **DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING 12 NOON, JANUARY 1, 2011 AND ENDING 12**  
7 **NOON, JANUARY 1, 2015. THE JUDGESHIP TEMPORARILY ELIMINATED FROM**  
8 **THIS CIRCUIT DURING THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2011 TO JANUARY 1,**

1 2015 SHALL BE THE JUDGESHIP OF A JUDGE WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO RUN  
2 FOR REELECTION DUE TO CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATION ON THE EFFECTIVE  
3 DATE OF THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT ADDED THIS SUBSECTION. IN THE 2014  
4 ELECTION, THE INITIAL TERM OF OFFICE OF THE JUDGESHIP BEING  
5 RESTORED SHALL BE 8 YEARS.

6 Sec. 517. (1) The sixteenth judicial circuit consists of the  
7 county of Macomb and, **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2)**, has ~~12~~  
8 ~~13 judges. Subject to section 550, this circuit may have 1~~  
9 ~~additional judge effective January 1, 2007.~~

10 (2) **SUBJECT TO SECTION 550, THIS CIRCUIT SHALL HAVE 12 JUDGES**  
11 **DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING 12 NOON, JANUARY 1, 2011 AND ENDING 12**  
12 **NOON, JANUARY 1, 2017. THE 1 JUDGESHIP TEMPORARILY ELIMINATED FROM**  
13 **THIS CIRCUIT DURING THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2011 TO JANUARY 1,**  
14 **2017 SHALL BE THE JUDGESHIP OF A JUDGE WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO RUN**  
15 **FOR REELECTION DUE TO CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATION ON THE EFFECTIVE**  
16 **DATE OF THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT ADDED THIS SUBSECTION.**

17 Sec. 550. (1) An additional circuit judgeship permitted by  
18 this chapter shall not be authorized to be filled by election  
19 unless each county in the circuit, by resolution adopted by the  
20 county board of commissioners, approves the creation of that  
21 judgeship and unless the clerk of each county adopting such a  
22 resolution files a copy of the resolution with the state court  
23 administrator not later than 4 p.m. of the sixteenth Tuesday  
24 preceding the August primary for the election to fill the  
25 additional circuit judgeship. The state court administrator shall  
26 immediately notify the elections division of the department of  
27 state with respect to each new circuit judgeship authorized

1 pursuant to this subsection. **IF A CIRCUIT JUDGESHIP IS PERMITTED BY**  
2 **LAW TO BE AUTHORIZED WITHOUT A RESOLUTION BEING ADOPTED BY THE**  
3 **COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR SHALL**  
4 **IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE ELECTIONS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
5 **STATE WITH RESPECT TO EACH NEW CIRCUIT JUDGESHIP AUTHORIZED.**

6 (2) A resolution required under subsection (1) that is filed  
7 before the effective date of the amendatory act that authorized  
8 that judgeship is a valid approval of the judgeship for purposes of  
9 this section only if the filing occurs within the 2-year state  
10 legislative session during which the amendatory act was enacted. A  
11 resolution required under subsection (1) that is filed after the  
12 effective date of the amendatory act that added that judgeship is a  
13 valid approval of the judgeship for purposes of this section only  
14 if the filing occurs not later than 4 p.m. of the sixteenth Tuesday  
15 preceding the August primary for the election immediately preceding  
16 the effective date of the additional judgeship.

17 (3) By permitting an additional judgeship, **OR BY RESTORING A**  
18 **JUDGESHIP AFTER A TEMPORARY REDUCTION IN JUDGESHIPS AS DESCRIBED IN**  
19 **SUBSECTION (5),** the legislature is not creating that judgeship. If  
20 a county, acting through its board of commissioners, approves the  
21 creation of an additional circuit judgeship, that approval  
22 constitutes an exercise of the county's option to provide a new  
23 activity or service or to increase the level of activity or service  
24 offered in the county beyond that required by existing law, as the  
25 elements of that option are defined by ~~Act No. 101 of the Public~~  
26 ~~Acts of 1979, being sections 21.231 to 21.244 of the Michigan~~  
27 ~~Compiled Laws 1979 PA 101, MCL 21.231 TO 21.244,~~ and a voluntary

1 acceptance by the county of all expenses and capital improvements  
2 which may result from the creation of the judgeship. However, the  
3 exercise of the option does not affect the state's obligation to  
4 pay the same portion of the additional judge's salary which is paid  
5 by the state to the other judges of the same circuit, or to  
6 appropriate and disburse funds to the county for the necessary  
7 costs of state requirements established by a state law which  
8 becomes effective on or after December 23, 1978.

9 (4) Each additional circuit judgeship created pursuant to  
10 subsection (1) shall be filled by election pursuant to the Michigan  
11 election law, ~~Act No. 116 of the Public Acts of 1954, as amended,~~  
12 ~~being sections 168.1 to 168.992 of the Michigan Compiled Laws 1954~~  
13 **PA 116, MCL 168.1 TO 168.992.** The first term of each additional  
14 circuit judgeship shall be 6 years, unless the law permitting the  
15 additional judgeship provides for a term of a different length.

16 (5) **IF, BY LAW, THE NUMBER OF JUDGESHIPS IN A JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
17 **IS TEMPORARILY REDUCED FOR A PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN 6 YEARS AND**  
18 **THEN RESTORED TO THE NUMBER OF JUDGESHIPS THAT EXISTED BEFORE THE**  
19 **TEMPORARY REDUCTION, THE RESTORED JUDGESHIP OR JUDGESHIPS ARE NOT**  
20 **CONSIDERED ADDITIONAL CIRCUIT JUDGESHIPS FOR PURPOSES OF THIS**  
21 **SECTION, AND A RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL UNDER SUBSECTION (1) IS NOT**  
22 **REQUIRED.**

23 (6) **A TEMPORARY REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF CIRCUIT JUDGESHIPS**  
24 **IN A JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SHALL NOT TAKE EFFECT UNLESS BOTH OF THE**  
25 **FOLLOWING OCCUR:**

26 (A) **EACH COUNTY IN THE CIRCUIT, BY RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE**  
27 **COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, SUPPORTS THE TEMPORARY REDUCTION IN**

1 THE NUMBER OF JUDGESHIP.

2 (B) THE CLERK OF EACH COUNTY ADOPTING THE RESOLUTION FILES A  
3 COPY OF THE RESOLUTION WITH THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR NOT LATER  
4 THAN 4 P.M. OF THE SIXTEENTH TUESDAY PRECEDING THE DATE ON WHICH  
5 THE AUGUST PRIMARY WOULD HAVE BEEN HELD FOR THE JUDGESHIP THAT IS  
6 BEING ELIMINATED. A RESOLUTION REQUIRED UNDER SUBDIVISION (A) THAT  
7 IS FILED BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT ADDED  
8 THIS SUBSECTION IS VALID IF THE FILING OCCURS WITHIN THE 2-YEAR  
9 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION DURING WHICH THE AMENDATORY ACT WAS  
10 ENACTED.

11 (7) THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR SHALL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE  
12 ELECTIONS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITH RESPECT TO  
13 EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:

14 (A) A TEMPORARY REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF JUDGESHIPS IN A  
15 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT.

16 (B) THE RESTORATION OF THE NUMBER OF JUDGESHIPS IN A JUDICIAL  
17 CIRCUIT, AFTER A TEMPORARY REDUCTION IN THAT NUMBER.