

Legislative Analysis



RETAIN 79th DISTRICT JUDGESHIP

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Senate Bill 754 as passed by the Senate
Sponsor: Sen. Curtis S. VanderWall
House Committee: Judiciary
Senate Committee: Judiciary and Public Safety
Complete to 3-16-20

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

(Enacted as Public Act 82 of 2020)

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 754 would amend the Revised Judicature Act to remove provisions that would eliminate a district judgeship for the 79th District Court, which consists of Lake and Mason Counties.

Currently under the act, the 79th district has one judge, but as soon as that office becomes vacant or the incumbent does not run again, that judgeship will be eliminated and the probate judges for Lake and Mason Counties will each serve as judge of the 79th district within their respective counties. This language was added by 2012 PA 18.¹

According to a Supreme Court Administrative Office profile,² the current judge of the 79th District Court will be too old to run for reelection in November 2020, which will trigger the court reorganization described above.

The bill would retain the judgeship for the 79th District Court by removing from law the provisions that would eliminate the judgeship as soon as the office becomes vacant or the incumbent does not seek reelection.

MCL 600.8144

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 754 would have no fiscal impact on the state or on local units of government. The bill would eliminate the sunset provision for a district court judgeship in the 79th district, which means the current district court judgeship would be retained. Therefore, current state spending on the district court judge's salary and benefits would be retained as well. The current salary of a district court judge is \$149,656, and retirement/FICA costs are roughly \$20,680, for a total cost of \$170,336.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

¹ 2012 PA 18 (HB 5075): <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2011-HB-5075>

² <https://courts.michigan.gov/Administration/SCAO/Documents/Judge%20Wadel%20profile.pdf#search=%22Peter%20J.%20Wadel%22>