



Senate Fiscal Agency
P. O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

BILL



ANALYSIS

Telephone: (517) 373-5383
Fax: (517) 373-1986
TDD: (517) 373-0543

Senate Bill 788 (as reported with amendment)
Sponsor: Senator Bill Hardiman
Committee: Judiciary

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Revised Judicature Act (RJA) to allow the addition of one judgeship in the 17th Judicial Circuit, which consists of Kent County and currently has nine judges. Under the bill, subject to Section 550 of the RJA, the 17th Circuit could have one additional judge effective January 1, 2007.

(Under Section 550, 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.)

MCL 600.518

Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would increase costs to State and local units of government.

Based on the 2004 salary of a circuit court judge, the State would incur the following annual costs for a new circuit judgeship:

Salary	\$139,919
Social Security/Medicare	7,529
Defined Contribution Retirement	9,794
Total	\$157,242

Local costs would depend on the cost of fringe benefits for judges provided by the county, support staff costs, and whether additional office or courtroom facilities would be necessary.

Date Completed: 2-18-04

Fiscal Analyst: Bethany Wicksall