



Senate Fiscal Agency  
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BILL



ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 788 (as introduced 10-23-03)  
Sponsor: Senator Bill Hardiman  
Committee: Judiciary

Date Completed: 11-4-03

### **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, 2005.

(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 2003 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	7,423
Defined Contribution Retirement	9,794
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$157,136</b>

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.

Fiscal Analyst: Bethany Wicksall

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