

# Legislative Analysis

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## **JRR: ELIMINATION/CONSOLIDATION OF TRIAL COURT JUDGESHIPS**

**House Bill 5071 with committee amendment  
House Bill 5101 (Substitute H-1)  
Sponsor: Rep. John Walsh**

**House Bill 5072 with committee amendment  
House Bill 5102 (Substitute H-2)  
Sponsor: Rep. Kurt Heise**

**House Bill 5073 as introduced  
House Bill 5105 (Substitute H-2)  
Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Cotter**

**House Bill 5074 as introduced  
House Bill 5104 as introduced  
Sponsor: Rep. Pat Somerville**

**House Bill 5075 with committee amendment  
House Bill 5107 (Substitute H-1)  
Sponsor: Rep. Peter Pettalia**

**House Bill 5093 as introduced  
Sponsor: Rep. Kate Segal**

**House Bill 5094 with committee amendment  
Sponsor: Rep. Stacey Erwin Oakes**

**House Bill 5095 as introduced  
Sponsor: Rep. Roy Schmidt**

**House Bill 5103 (Substitute H-7)  
Sponsor: Rep. David Rutledge**

**House Bill 5106 as introduced  
Sponsor: Rep. Philip M. Cavanagh**

**House Bill 5108 (Substitute H-1)  
Sponsor: Rep. Jeff Irwin**

**Committee: Judiciary  
Complete to 12-8-11**

## **A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILLS 5071-5075, 5093-5095, AND 5101-5108 AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE 12-7-11**

The bill package would amend various sections of the Revised Judicature Act to eliminate judgeships from certain district, probate, and circuit courts; merge or consolidate certain judicial circuits; and shift the duties of some district judges to a county's probate judge.

In order to monitor judicial costs and caseloads, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) reviews the state's judicial needs every two years and compiles the findings in the *Judicial Resources Recommendations* (JRR). The report provides recommendations regarding the addition or removal of judgeships so that judicial resources are equitably distributed across the state. The 2011 JRR report recommends a total of 45 judgeships be eliminated by attrition.

A series of bills have been introduced to adopt the recommendations outlined in the JRR report regarding the trial courts (district, circuit, and probate). As reported by committee, the bills would eliminate a total of 43 judgeships across the state.

In general, the reductions or consolidations would take effect on the date on which a vacancy occurred or the beginning date of the term for which an incumbent no longer sought election or reelection to that office, whichever occurred first. Judges are not eligible to run for election or reelection after the age of 70.

In addition, by statute, each county that is not part of a probate court district must have at least one probate judge, and each probate court district must have one judge of probate. Some of the bills would eliminate one or more district court judgeships and shift those duties to the probate judge of the county or probate court district.

### **Counties Affected by the Legislation**

The counties and cities affected by the legislative package are listed in the chart on the next page. Those counties not listed would not have any changes made to the judgeships in their jurisdictions. The number of the Circuit or District Court is listed next to the county, city, or township.

<b>County, City or Township</b>	<b>Court Number</b>	<b>Proposed Elimination</b>	<b>Relevant Bill</b>
Alcona, Arenac, Iosco, Oscoda	23rd Circuit	1 Circuit, 1 District	5101
Alger-Schoolcraft	11th Circuit	1 District	5072
Alpena & Montmercy	26th Circuit	1 District	5094
Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw	12th Circuit	1 District	5072
Bay	18th Circuit	1 Circuit, 1 District	5104
Benzie & Manistee	19th Circuit	1 District	5105
Berkeley (Merger)	45th-A District	1 District	5103
Birmingham/West Bloomfield Twp	48th District	1 District	5103
Calhoun	37th Circuit	1 District	5105
Cheboygan & Presque Isle	53rd Circuit	1 District	5094
Chippewa	50th Circuit	1 District	5108
Crawford, Otsego, Kalkaska	46th Circuit	1 District	5094
Delta	47th Circuit	1 District	5108
Dickinson, Iron, Monominee	41st Circuit	1 Circuit, 1 District	5095
Ecorse and River Rouge	26th District	1 District	5105
Flint	68th District	1 District	5073
Gogebic and Ontonagan	32nd Circuit	1 District	5072
Grand Traverse, Antrim, Leelenau	13th Circuit	1 District	5071
Gratiot	29th Circuit	1 District	5105
Hillsdale	1st Circuit	1 District	5108
Huron	52nd Circuit	1 Circuit	5102
Kalamazoo	9th Circuit	1 Probate	5093
Lake, Mason	51st Circuit	1 District	5075
Lansing	54th-A District	1 District	5073
Lapeer	40th Circuit	1 District	5105
Lincoln Park	25th District	1 District	5103
Marquette	25th Circuit	1 Circuit, 1 District	5106
Midland	42nd Circuit	1 District	5107
Newaygo & Oceana	27th Circuit	1 Circuit	5075
Oakland/Troy	52-4 District	1 District	5105
Pontiac	50th District	1 District	5103
Roscommon & Ogemaw	34th Circuit	1 District	5101
Royal Oak (Merger)	44th District	1 District	5103
Sanilac	24th Circuit	1 District	5105
Shiawassee	35th Circuit	1 District	5074
Trenton/Grosse Ile, Brownston Twp	33rd District	1 District	5103
Van Buren	36th Circuit	1 District	5093
Wayne	3rd Circuit	2 Circuit	5105
Wexford and Missaukee	28th Circuit	1 District	5071

## HB 5071

13th Circuit,  
86th District

### Antrim, Grand Traverse, and Leelanau Counties

#### Current Judgeships

2 Circuit	3 Probate	3 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.6 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.9 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

Proposal: Eliminate one District judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2019

28th Circuit,  
84th District

### Wexford and Missaukee Counties

#### Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	2 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.1 Circuit/Probate Judges, recommendation to remove one judgeship.

The bill would eliminate the District judgeship; Probate judges in each county would serve as that county's District judge.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2021

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## HB 5072

11th Circuit,  
92nd/93rd District

### Alger and Schoolcraft Counties

#### Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	2 Probate	2 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.3 Probate/Circuit judges and 1.4 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate the District judgeship from the 93rd District; the probate judge from the 5th probate district would serve as district judge for Alger and Schoolcraft Counties.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2027

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12th Circuit,  
97th District

**Houghton, Keweenaw, and Baraga Counties**

Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	2.5 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 2.0 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.5 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate the District judgeship, probate judges in each county assume the responsibilities of District judge for their respective counties.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2027

32nd Circuit,  
98th District

**Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties**

Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	2 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 2.0 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.6 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate the District judgeship, probate judges in each county would assume the responsibilities of district judge for their respective counties.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2015

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**HB 5073**

54A District

**City of Lansing**

Current Judgeships

5 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.0 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one District judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2015

68th District

**City of Flint**

Current Judgeships

5 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.6 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one District judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2021

**HB 5074**

35th Circuit,  
66th District

**Shiawassee County**

Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	1 Probate	2 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of .9 Probate/Circuit judges and a judicial need of 0.2 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one District judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2021

**HB 5075**

27th Circuit,  
78th District

**Newaygo and Oceana Counties**

Current Judgeships

2 Circuit	2 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.3 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.3 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one Circuit judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2015

51st Circuit,  
79th District

**Lake and Mason Counties**

Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	2 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.3 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.3 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate the District judgeship, probate judges in each county would assume the responsibilities of district judge for their respective counties.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2015

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**HB 5093**

9th Circuit,  
8th District

**Kalamazoo County**

Current Judgeships

5 Circuit	3 Probate	7 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.5 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.4 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one Probate judgeship

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2015

**Van Buren County**

36th Circuit,  
7th District

Current Judgeships

2 Circuit	1 Probate	2 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.4 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.3 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one District judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2023

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## HB 5094

26th Circuit,  
88th District

### Alpena and Montmorency Counties

#### Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	2 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.1 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.3 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate the only District judgeship; probate judges from Alpena and Montmorency Counties will serve as their respective county's district judge.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2015

46th Circuit,  
87A District

### Crawford, Kalkaska, and Otsego Counties

#### Current Judgeships

2 Circuit	3 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.5 Probate/Circuit judges and a judicial need of 0.1 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate the only District judgeship; designate the Otsego County Probate judge to serve as district judge for the 87th-A District.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2021

Note: This district judge only serves Otsego County. The remaining districts under the 46th Circuit, 87B and 87C, are already served by their respective probate judges.

53rd Circuit,  
89th District

### Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties

#### Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	2 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.7 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.4 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.



The bill would eliminate the only District judgeship; probate judges from Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties will serve as their respective county's district judge.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2039

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### **HB 5095**

41st Circuit,  
95A, 95B District

#### **Dickinson, Iron, and Menominee Counties**

##### Current Judgeships

2 Circuit	3 Probate	2 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 2.3 Probate/Circuit judges and 1.0 District Judges. The report recommends removing two judgeships by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one Circuit judgeship. The bill would also eliminate the District judgeship for Menominee County and designate the Menominee county Probate judge to serve as district judge for Menominee County.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2021 for both Circuit and District judges.

**Note:** The Probate judge in Iron County already serves as that county's District judge.

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### **HB 5101**

23rd Circuit,  
81st District

#### **Alcona, Arenac, Iosco, and Oscoda Counties**

##### Current Judgeships

2 Circuit	4 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 2.8 Probate/Circuit judges with a judicial need of 0.1 District Judges. The JRR recommends removing two judgeships by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one Circuit judgeship; eliminate the only District judgeship and designate the probate judges in each county to serve as district judges.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2021 for Circuit judgeship, 2033 for District judgeship.

34th Circuit,  
82nd/83rd District

**Ogemaw and Roscommon Counties**

Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	2 Probate	2 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.1 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.6 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would merge the 82nd and 83rd District courts to eliminate one District judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2021

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**HB 5102**

52nd Circuit,  
73B District

**Huron County**

Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	1 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.8 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.5 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would designate the Huron County District judge as a Probate judge; eliminate the only District judgeship as of April 1, 2012.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2015

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**HB 5103**

25th District

**City of Lincoln Park**

Current Judgeships

2 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.7 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one District judgeship. (House Bill 5105 would merge the 25th and 26th District Courts and eliminate one District judgeship.)

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2027

43rd/44th District

**Royal Oak, Ferndale, Hazel Park, and Madison Heights**

Current Judgeships

5 District

Judicial Resources Recommendation:

For 43rd District: Excess of 0.5 District judgeships

For 44th District: Excess of 0.6 District judgeships

The report recommends merging these two districts and eliminating one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would merge the 44th District with the 43rd as of January 2, 2015, and eliminate one District Judge.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2021

Note: This proposal involves a merger of multiple district courts unless the combined districts' funding units adopt a consolidation plan approved by the State Court Administrative Office before July 1, 2012.

45th-A/45th-B District

**Berkley, Oak Park, and Huntington Woods**

Current Judgeships

3 District

Judicial Resources Recommendation:

For 45th-A District: Excess of 0.6 District judgeships

For 45th-B District: Excess of 0.5 District judgeships

The report recommends merging these two districts and eliminating one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would merge the 45th-A District with the 45th-B as of January 2, 2012, and eliminate one District Judge.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2021

Note: This proposal involves a merger of multiple district courts unless the combined districts' funding units adopt a consolidation plan approved by the State Court Administrative Office before July 1, 2012.

48th District

**Birmingham and West Bloomfield Twp.**

Current Judgeships

3 District

Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.7 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one District judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2033

50th District

**City of Pontiac**

Current Judgeships

4 District

Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.8 District Judges. The report recommends removing two judgeships by attrition. However, based on additional data showing an increased caseload since the Oakland County Sheriff's Department took over the Pontiac Police Department, SCAO revised the recommendation to remove just one judgeship.

Proposal: Eliminate one District judgeship.

Outside Dates of Elimination: 2023

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**HB 5104**

18th Circuit,  
74th District

**Bay County**

Current Judgeships

3 Circuit	1 Probate	3 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.7 Probate/Circuit judges and 1.0 District Judges. The report recommends removing two judgeships by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one Circuit judgeship and one District judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2021 for Circuit, 2029 for District

**HB 5105**

19th Circuit

**Benzie and Manistee Counties**

Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	2 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.2 Circuit/Probate and 0.1 District judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate a currently vacant District judgeship and designate the probate judges to serve as district judges in their respective counties.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: Immediate

3rd Circuit

**Wayne County**

Current Judgeships

61 Circuit	8 Probate
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.1 Probate/Circuit judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate two Circuit judgeships as of January 1, 2013.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2013

52nd District

**Outer Oakland County**

Current Judgeships

11 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.7 District judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one District judgeship from the fourth division of the 52nd District (Troy and Clawson).

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2013

25th/26th District

**Ecorse and River Rouge**

Current Judgeships

4 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.5 District Judges

The bill would merge the 25th and 26th District Courts and eliminate one District judgeship. (House Bill 5103 would eliminate one District judgeship from 25th District Court but would not merge the two courts.)

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: Immediate

24th Circuit

**Sanilac County**

Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	1 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.4 Circuit/Probate and 0.4 District judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate a currently vacant Probate judgeship and designate the district judge as a probate judge.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: Immediate

29th Circuit/65th B District

**Gratiot County**

Current Judgeships

2 Circuit	2 Probate	2 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.4 Circuit/Probate and 0 District judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate a currently vacant judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: Immediate

40th Circuit,  
71A District

**Lapeer County**

Current Judgeships

2 Circuit	1 Probate	2 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.7 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.6 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one District judgeship as of January 1, 2013.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2013

37th Circuit

**Calhoun County**

Current Judgeships

4 Circuit	2 Probate	4 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.8 Circuit/Probate and 0.1 District judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate a currently vacant judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: Immediate

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**HB 5106**

25th Circuit,  
96th District

**Marquette County**

Current Judgeships

2 Circuit	1 Probate	2 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.3 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.9 District Judges. The report recommends removing two judgeships by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one District and one Circuit judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2023 for Circuit, 2015 for District.

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**HB 5107**

42nd Circuit,  
75th District

**Midland County**

Current Judgeships

2 Circuit	1 Probate	2 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.9 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.9 District Judges. The report recommends removing two judgeships by attrition.

The bill would eliminate one District judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2021.

**HB 5108**

1st Circuit,  
2B District

**Hillsdale County**

Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	1 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.7 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.2 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would eliminate the District judgeship as of January 1, 2015 and designate the Probate judge to serve as a District Judge.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2015

47th Circuit,  
94th District

**Delta County**

Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	1 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 1.0 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.3 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would combine the office of the Probate judge with the office of the District Judge as of April 1, 2012 and eliminate one Probate judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2017



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50th Circuit,  
91st District

**Chippewa County**

Current Judgeships

1 Circuit	1 Probate	1 District
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Judicial Resources Recommendation: Judicial Excess of 0.4 Probate/Circuit judges and 0.4 District Judges. The report recommends removing one judgeship by attrition.

The bill would combine the office of the Probate judge with the office of the District Judge as of April 1, 2012 and eliminate one Probate judgeship.

Outside Date of Judgeship Removal: 2019

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Estimated Fiscal Impact

Both State and Local governments have significant financial investments in Michigan's justice system. The State of Michigan spends approximately \$94 million on justice and judge compensation, most of which is paid to District, Circuit, and Probate judges. This responsibility from the state includes the judge's salary, employer required retirement contributions, and the employer portion of FICA taxes, totaling approximately \$158,000 for a circuit or probate judge and \$156,500 for a district judge.

While local governments do not pay the judges themselves, they are responsible for the costs related to supporting these justices, hiring any additional staff, and maintaining courthouses and judicial offices. These costs could be indirectly affected by the elimination of judgeships, as these courts may require fewer resources to accommodate a reduced number of judges. Savings could be realized in reduced staff, office space, or technology. Current spending on these resources varies widely by district, so the potential savings differ widely in each scenario.

If all 43 of the proposed eliminations are passed by the legislature, the total savings for the state government would be about \$6.7 million per year once all judgeships are eliminated. This would take course over several years, and savings would only be realized as each judge steps down or retires from his or her position. Judges become ineligible for reelection when they turn 70 years old, making the end of their current term their judgeship's outside date for elimination. This outside date is the latest time a judgeship may be eliminated, though the actual date may be significantly earlier. Judges often elect to not run for reelection once they are eligible for retirement, which can occur many years before they turn 70, depending on the number of years they have served.

Some court Districts are also required to merge under this legislation. These courts may also face indeterminate costs or savings related to merging their operations. Potential cost savings could rise from sharing facilities and resources. These savings would benefit local governments beyond the savings that are already realized from any reduced resources needed due to eliminated judgeships. Additionally, these merged court districts would be able to share workloads, which may reduce court congestion.

Both short- and long-term costs could partially or fully offset these savings, potentially resulting in higher average costs after a merger. Examples of potential costs include merging of computer systems, increased travel time for law enforcement and prosecutors, and reconciliation of differing labor agreements. The amount of these costs and whether or not they would outweigh the potential savings will vary by court district.

The table that follows estimates the cost savings to the State over the first decade after these judgeships are eliminated by legislation, based on outside dates of judgeship elimination. According to these estimates, about \$4.9 million of the \$6.7 million saved by eliminating these judgeships will be realized by the end of 2021. Further savings may be realized by this date, with these additional savings depending on if other judges choose to step down or not run for reelection before this date.

**Estimated 10-year savings over FY 2011-12 budget from removal of Circuit,  
District, and Probate Judgeships**

<b>Court District</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Savings</b>
<b>2012</b>		
19th Circuit	Benzie/Mansitee	
25th/26th District	Lincoln Park/Ecourse	
37th Circuit	Gratiot	
37th Circuit	Calhoun	
24th Circuit	Sanilac	
	<b>Savings Realized in 2012</b>	\$782,500
	<b>Subtotal of Savings</b>	<b>\$7,825,000</b>
<b>2013</b>		
3rd Circuit	Wayne Circuit (2)	
52-4 District	Oakland/Troy	
40th Circuit	Lapeer	
	<b>Savings Realized in 2013</b>	\$630,500
	<b>Subtotal of Savings</b>	<b>\$1,413,000</b>
<b>2015</b>		
54th-A District	Lansing	
9th Circuit	Kalamazoo	
27th Circuit	Newaygo & Oceana	
26th Circuit	Alpena & Montmercy	
52nd Circuit	Huron	
25th Circuit	Marquette	
	<b>Savings Realized in 2015</b>	\$943,500
	<b>Subtotal of Savings</b>	<b>\$2,356,500</b>
<b>2017</b>		
47th Circuit	Delta	
	<b>Savings Realized in 2017</b>	\$156,500
	<b>Subtotal of Savings</b>	<b>\$2,513,000</b>
<b>2019</b>		
50th Circuit	Chippewa	
1st Circuit	Hillsdale	
13th Circuit	Grand Traverse	
	<b>Savings Realized in 2019</b>	\$469,500
	<b>Subtotal of Savings</b>	<b>\$2,982,500</b>
<b>2021</b>		
28th Circuit	Wexford	
68th District	Flint	
35th Circuit	Shiawassee	
51st Circuit	Lake, Mason	
46th Circuit	Crawford, Otsego, Kalkaska	
41st Circuit	Dickinson, Iron, Monominee (Two Judgeships)	
23rd Circuit	Alcona, Arenac, Iosco, Oscoda	
34th Circuit	Roscommon & Crawford	
44th District	Royal Oak	
45th-A District	Berkeley	
18th Circuit	Bay	
	<b>Savings Realized in 2021</b>	\$1,882,500
	<b>Total Savings Over Current Budget</b>	<b>\$4,865,000</b>

\* Outside date represents the date the current judge is ineligible for reelection.

Actual date of removal may be earlier.

## POSITIONS:

Representatives of the Michigan Judges Association, Michigan District Judges, and Michigan Probate Judges Association testified in support of the **bill package**. (12-1-11)

Representatives of the Supreme Court Administrative Office (SCAO) testified in support of the **bill package**. (12-1-11)

A representative of the Office of Governor indicated support for the bills. (10-20-11)

A representative of the 34th Circuit Court testified in opposition to **House Bills 5071 and 5101** as introduced. (12-1-11)

The Van Buren County Prosecuting Attorney indicated opposition to **House Bill 5093**. (12-7-11)

A representative of the Kalamazoo County Probate Court indicated opposition to **House Bill 5093**. (12-7-11)

Representatives of the Kalamazoo County Probate Court and the Probate Court Register and Administrator testified in opposition to **House Bill 5093**. (10-27-11)

A representative of the Kalamazoo District Court testified with a neutral position on **House Bill 5093**. (10-27-11)

Representatives of the Huron County Circuit Court indicated support for **House Bill 5102 (Substitute H-2)**, and testified in opposition to the bill **as introduced**. (12-7-11 and 11-3-11).

The Sanilac County Prosecutor testified in support of **House Bill 5102 as introduced**. (11-3-11)

A representative of the 24th Circuit Court testified in support of **House Bill 5102 as introduced**. (11-3-11)

A representative of the Huron County Probate Court testified in opposition to **House Bill 5102 as introduced**. (11-3-11)

Representatives of the City of Pontiac testified in opposition to **House Bill 5103 as introduced**. (12-1-11)

The City of Berkeley submitted written testimony supporting merging District Courts 45 A & B (**House Bill 5103**), and asked for additional language allowing consolidating municipalities to negotiate agreements within their communities to allow for feasible docket management and fiscal efficiencies (which was added by the committee sub). (10-27-11)

The city manager of Hazel Park and the police chief from the Hazel Park Police Department testified in opposition to **House Bill 5103 as introduced**. (10-27-11)

The Ferndale city manager and the chief of police testified in opposition to **House Bill 5103 as introduced**. (10-27-11)

The chief judge of the 50th District Court (Pontiac) testified in opposition to **House Bill 5103 as introduced**. (The committee substitute would eliminate only one judgeship, instead of two.) (10-27-11)

Representatives of the Bay County Bar Association, Bay County, and Bay County Prosecutor's Office testified in opposition to **House Bill 5104**. (11-3-11)

Representatives of Lapeer County testified in opposition to **House Bill 5105 as introduced**. (10-27-11)

Representatives of Hillsdale County testified in opposition to **House Bill 5108 as introduced**. (11-3-11)

Legislative Analyst: Susan Stutzky  
Fiscal Analyst: Erik Jonasson

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