



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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LT. GOVERNOR

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Michigan House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representatives,

Today, I am returning Enrolled House Bill 5259 without my approval.

Every two years, the Supreme Court Administrative Office produces the Judicial Resources Recommendation, which provides guidance on court capacity. The 2019 report identified five counties that require new judicial resources, including Wayne County and Kent County, which each require three additional judges.

HB 5259 would add a fourth circuit judge for Ottawa County. This legislation has arrived on my desk alone – unaccompanied by bills that would fill judicial needs in other parts of the state. Because HB 5259 does not satisfy the need for new judges to be added in a way that reflects the state's geographic and demographic balance, I am vetoing it.

Nevertheless, I would be delighted to support legislation that accords with both the Judicial Resources Recommendation and the need for geographic and demographic balance in distribution of new judges. Senate Bill 694, sponsored by Sen. Bumstead (R-Newaygo), is just one example of legislation that aims to allow for additional judges in a more equitable way.

Respectfully,

Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor