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## Judiciary Committee

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### HB 2471

**Title:** An act relating to the methodology of determining the number of district court judges.

**Brief Description:** Changing the methodology of determining the number of district court judges.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Esser, Lantz and Casada; by request of Administrator for the Courts.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Changes the methodology used to determine the number of district court judges.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 1/29/02

**Staff:** Edie Adams (786-7180).

**Background:**

The number of district court judges in each county is set by statute. Any change in the number of full or part-time judges in a county must be made by the Legislature after receiving a recommendation from the Supreme Court. The recommendation must be based on a weighted caseload analysis conducted by the Office of the Administrator for the Courts. The weighted caseload analysis must take into account a number of factors, including: the time that existing judges have available to hear cases; the judicial time needed to process various types of cases; and a determination of the amount of a judge's time that can be devoted exclusively to process cases.

**Summary of Bill:**

The weighted caseload analysis used by the Supreme Court to make recommendations regarding a change in the number of district court judges in a county is changed to an "objective workload analysis." The objective workload analysis must take into account available judicial resources and the caseload activity of the court.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not Requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.