
Judiciary Committee

SB 5981

Title: An act relating to increasing the number of superior court judges in Mason county.

Brief Description: Increasing the number of superior court judges in Mason county.

Sponsors: Senators Sheldon, Kline, Hewitt and Dammeier; by request of Board For Judicial Administration.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raises the number of statutorily authorized superior court judges in Mason County from two to three.
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Hearing Date: 2/20/14

Staff: Omeara Harrington (786-7136).

Background:

The number of superior court judges in each county is set by statute. Any change in the number of full- and part-time judges in a county's superior court is determined by the Legislature after receiving a recommendation from the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA). The BJA's recommendation is based on an objective workload analysis developed annually by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The objective workload analysis takes into account available judicial resources and the caseload activity of the court.

The state and the county share the cost of superior court judges. In order for an additional judicial position to become effective, the legislative authority of the affected county must approve the position and agree to pay the expenses associated with the new position out of county funds and without reimbursement from the state.

Mason County has two elected superior court judges. The BJA recommends an increase in the number of superior court judges in Mason County.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

The number of statutorily authorized superior court judges in Mason County is increased from two to three. This new position becomes effective only if the legislative authority of Mason County approves the position and agrees that the county will pay its share of the cost of the position without reimbursement from the state.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.