

# Legislative Analysis



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## JUDGESHIPS

**House Bill 5121 (Substitute H-1)**  
**Sponsor: Rep. John Walsh**

**House Bill 5122 (Substitute H-1)**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Joe Haveman**

**House Bill 5123 (Substitute H-1)**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Cotter**

**House Bill 5124 (Substitute H-1)**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Tom Leonard**

**House Bill 5125 (Substitute H-1)**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Kurt Heise**

**Committee: Judiciary**  
**Complete to 12-4-13**

## A PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILLS 5121-5125 AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE

The bill would amend several sections of the Revised Judicature Act, based on the 2013 Judicial Resources Recommendations (JRR) report of the Supreme Court Administrative Office. The following table summarizes these judgeship changes by bill:

<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>County/City</u>	<u>Addition/Reduction</u>
<b>HB 5121</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit	Macomb County	+2 circuit judges
<b>HB 5122</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit	Oakland County	+1 circuit judge
<b>HB 5123</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit	Kent County	+1 circuit judge
	18 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> District	18 <sup>th</sup> – City of Westland 29 <sup>th</sup> – City of Wayne	Consolidation – net effect is 0 judges (Effective 1/2/2015)
	27 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> District	27 <sup>th</sup> – Cities of Wyandotte and Riverview 28 <sup>th</sup> – City of Southgate	Consolidation – net effect is 0 judges (Effective 1/2/2015)
<b>HB 5124</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit	Wayne County	-4 circuit judges
<b>HB 5125</b>	63 <sup>rd</sup> District	Kent County	+1 district judge
	67 <sup>th</sup> and 68 <sup>th</sup> District	67 <sup>th</sup> – Genesee County 68 <sup>th</sup> – City of Flint	Consolidation – net effect is 0 judges
	70 <sup>th</sup> District	Saginaw County	-1 district judge

The bills appear to call for a total of 5 additions and 5 reductions in judgeships in various areas of the state. The bills would add four circuit court judgeships and one district court judgeship; and would reduce circuit court judgeships by four and district court judgeships by one. These changes result in a net change of zero additional judgeships to the state.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The state pays for the salaries, payroll taxes, and retirement benefits for circuit and district court judges. Fringe benefits, personnel costs, and costs for supplies, equipment, and space are paid for by the local court system. Each circuit court judgeship costs the state \$158,791. This amount includes the circuit court judge's salary of \$139,919, payroll taxes of \$9,078, and retirement costs of \$9,794. Each district court judgeship costs the state \$157,005. This amount includes the district court judge's salary of \$138,272, payroll taxes of \$9,054, and retirement costs of \$9,679. Local costs vary from circuit to circuit and district to district.

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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.

