

HB 1754 -- Judicial Circuits

Sponsor: Cox

This bill changes the composition of certain judicial circuits. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Specifies that court commissioners, including probate commissioners, have the powers and duties of an associate circuit judge so that their orders, judgments, and decrees will no longer be subject to confirmation or rejection by the circuit judge;

(2) Moves Callaway County from the 13th Judicial Circuit to the 12th Judicial Circuit, moves the counties of Camden, Miller, Moniteau, and Morgan from the 26th Judicial Circuit to the 30th Judicial Circuit, moves Dallas County from the 30th Judicial Circuit to the 26th Judicial Circuit, moves the counties of Polk and Webster from the 30th Judicial Circuit to the 26th Judicial Circuit, moves Carter County from the 37th Judicial Circuit to the 36th Judicial Circuit, and moves Wayne County from the 42nd Judicial Circuit to the 36th Judicial Circuit. Circuit judges in these circuits will continue to serve in the same judicial circuit in which they were serving prior to the effective date of the bill, and associate circuit judges whose county has been transferred to a different circuit must transfer to the circuit which includes the county in which he or she was serving prior to the effective date of the bill; and

(3) Reduces the number of circuit judge positions in the 22nd circuit from 24 judges to 20 judges and reallocates one additional position in the 19th, 31st, 38th, and 40th judicial circuits. The newly created judge position in the 19th and 31st judicial circuits is to be elected in 2014. The newly created judge positions in the 38th and 40th judicial circuits will begin on January 1, 2015.