

HB 373 -- Judicial Circuits

Sponsor: Cox

By January 1, 2015, and every 10 years thereafter, this bill requires the geographical boundaries and territorial jurisdiction of the circuit and appellate courts to be altered by the Missouri Supreme Court as the administration of justice may require, subject to the requirements set forth in article V of the Missouri Constitution. The Supreme Court must establish rules and standards to implement these changes. The bill specifies the criteria the Supreme Court must use when redrawing the judicial boundaries.

The repeal of the current geographical boundaries and territorial jurisdiction of the judicial circuits and appellate courts becomes effective December 31, 2014. The total number of circuits and appellate districts in existence as of December 31, 2014, must not be altered, and any Supreme Court order creating or reducing the number of circuits or appellate districts must be null and void. The repeal and reenactment of the provisions relating to family courts is effective December 31, 2014.