

Unofficial Draft Copy

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LCjr05

**** Bill No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the *****

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act revising judicial districts; eliminating the 14th and the 22nd judicial districts; revising the 6th and 16th judicial districts; revising the number of judges in the 6th and XXX judicial districts; amending sections 3-5-101 and 3-5-102, MCA; and providing effective dates."

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

Section 1. Section 3-5-101 , MCA, is amended to read:

"3-5-101. Judicial districts defined. In this state, there are ~~22~~ 20 judicial districts, distributed as follows:

- (1) 1st district: Lewis and Clark and Broadwater Counties;
- (2) 2nd district: Silver Bow County;
- (3) 3rd district: Deer Lodge, Granite, and Powell Counties;
- (4) 4th district: Missoula and Mineral Counties;
- (5) 5th district: Beaverhead, Jefferson, and Madison Counties;
- (6) 6th district: Carbon, Golden Valley, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Stillwater, and Sweet Grass, and Wheatland Counties;
- (7) 7th district: Dawson, McCone, Richland, Prairie, and Wibaux Counties;
- (8) 8th district: Cascade County;
- (9) 9th district: Teton, Pondera, Toole, and Glacier Counties;

- (10) 10th district: Fergus, Judith Basin, and Petroleum Counties;
- (11) 11th district: Flathead County;
- (12) 12th district: Liberty, Hill, and Chouteau Counties;
- (13) 13th district: Yellowstone County;
- (14) 14th district: ~~Meagher, Wheatland, Golden Valley, and Musselshell Counties~~ eliminated in 2019;
- (15) 15th district: Roosevelt, Daniels, and Sheridan Counties;
- (16) 16th district: Big Horn, Custer, Carter, Fallon, Powder River, Garfield, Treasure, and Rosebud Counties;
- (17) 17th district: Phillips, Blaine, and Valley Counties;
- (18) 18th district: Gallatin County;
- (19) 19th district: Lincoln County;
- (20) 20th district: Lake and Sanders Counties;
- (21) 21st district: Ravalli County;
- (22) 22nd district: ~~Stillwater, Carbon, and Big Horn Counties~~ eliminated in 2019."

{Internal References to 3-5-101: None.}

Section 2. Section 3-5-102 , MCA, is amended to read:

"3-5-102. Number of judges. In each judicial district, there must be the following number of judges of the district court:

- (1) in the 2nd, 6th, 7th, 16th, 20th, and 21st districts, two judges each;
- (2) in the 18th district, three judges;
- (3) in the 1st, 4th, 8th, and 11th districts, four judges each;

(4) in the 13th district, six judges;

(5) in all other districts, one judge each."

{*Internal References to 3-5-102: None.*}

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Election of judge in the X district.

There must be an election for the office of the XX district court judge at the general election to be held in November 2018 for a 6-year term to begin in January 2019.

NEW SECTION. Section 4. {standard} Effective dates.(1)

Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), [this act] is effective January 1, 2019.

(2) [Section 3] is effective on passage and approval.

(3) Residents of the affected counties are eligible to vote in the 2018 elections to elect district court judges for the districts that will take effect in January 2019.

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