

LR-132 (Supreme Court Districts)

Statement of Purpose and Implication:

This Act would require the chief justice and each of the six associate supreme court justices to be elected by district rather than on a statewide basis. This Act would change existing law so that each justice is elected from one of seven districts of approximately equal population. Only Montanans living in the relevant district would vote for that district's justice.

This Act provides for a transition schedule for sitting justices. Each sitting justice is assigned to a district corresponding to that justice's seat number. No sitting justices will lose their seats as a result of this Act. A sitting justice may file for reelection in the justice's assigned district, or a sitting justice may seek election in any other district if, upon filing for election, the justice resigns from his or her current seat.

Fiscal Statement:

No fiscal impact.