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COURTS: MULTIDISTRICT PLANS

House Bill 4602
Sponsor: Rep. David Galloway
Committee: Judiciary

Complete to 10-1-93

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4602 AS INTRODUCED 4-1-93

The bill would amend the Revised Judicature Act to provide for multiple district areas in which a judge or magistrate could conduct arraignments, appoint counsel, set bail, and make determinations of probable cause and issue warrants for the districts within the multiple district area. A multiple district area would be roughly contained within a judicial circuit; it could include a district that only partly lay within the circuit.

The multiple district operations would be conducted under a plan developed by the chief district judges (or, if they were unable to agree, by the chief circuit judge) and approved by the state court administrator. The plan would have to include provisions on the compensation of the magistrate and any support personnel, use of facilities, and superintending control of the magistrate. A judge who was to act outside of his or her district would have to be assigned by the supreme court to act as a judge for the districts designated by the plan. The plan could authorize an already-appointed magistrate to serve anywhere in the multiple district area. In the alternative, the chief district judges, acting jointly under a multiple district plan, could appoint a magistrate for the multiple district area under procedures paralleling those for existing appointments; the appointment would be subject to the local district control unit(s) representing a majority of the population of the multiple district area.

The bill also would allow a magistrate in a multicounty district to conduct arraignments, appoint counsel, set bail, or make determinations of probable cause and issue warrants in any county in the district, to the extent permitted by law and the chief judge of the district.

MCL 600.8251 et al.

House Bill 4602 (10-1-93)