

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 492

S.P. 163

In Senate, January 28, 1997

**An Act to Adjust the Residency Requirement for District Court Judges to
Include the Counties in Which They Reside.**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLS of Somerset.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §157, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 1995, c. 665, Pt. X, §1 and affected by §2, is further amended to read:

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A. The Governor, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters and to confirmation by the Legislature, shall appoint to the District Court 27 judges. At least one judge must be appointed from each district who is a resident of ~~the-district~~ a county in which the district lies, except that in District 3 there must be 2 judges appointed who are residents of ~~the-district~~ a county in which the district lies; in District 6 there must be 2 judges appointed who are residents of ~~the-district~~ a county in which the district lies; and in District 9 there must be 2 judges appointed who are residents of ~~the-district~~ a county in which the district lies. Each District Court Judge has a term of office of 7 years.

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To be eligible for appointment as a District Judge, a person must be a member of the bar of the State. The term "District Judge" includes the Chief Judge and Deputy Chief Judge.

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SUMMARY

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This bill enables District Court Judges to have wider latitude in their choice of geographical residency. This bill expands the possible areas of residence for District Court Judges, to a county in which the district lies.