

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 243

S.P. 109

In Senate, January 20, 2023

An Act To Eliminate Residency Requirements for District Court Judicial Appointments

Submitted by the Judicial Department pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §157, sub-§1, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 460, §2, is further
3 amended to read:

4 A. The Governor, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature
5 having jurisdiction over judiciary matters and to confirmation by the Legislature, shall
6 appoint to the District Court 39 judges. ~~At least one judge must be appointed from~~
7 ~~each district who is a resident of a county in which the district lies, except that in~~
8 ~~District 3 there must be 2 judges appointed who are residents of a county in which the~~
9 ~~district lies; in District 6 there must be 2 judges appointed who are residents of a county~~
10 ~~in which the district lies; and in District 9 there must be 2 judges appointed who are~~
11 ~~residents of a county in which the district lies.~~ Each District Court Judge has a term of
12 office of 7 years.

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

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This bill removes the requirements regarding residency for District Court judge
18 appointments.