

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 597**  
**99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

1346H.02C

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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**AN ACT**

To repeal sections 479.020 and 488.2250, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to court personnel.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Sections 479.020 and 488.2250, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections  
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 479.020 and 488.2250, to read as follows:

479.020. 1. Any city, town or village, including those operating under a constitutional  
2 or special charter, may, and cities with a population of four hundred thousand or more shall,  
3 provide by ordinance or charter for the selection, tenure and compensation of a municipal judge  
4 or judges consistent with the provisions of this chapter who shall have original jurisdiction to  
5 hear and determine all violations against the ordinances of the municipality. The method of  
6 selection of municipal judges shall be provided by charter or ordinance. Each municipal judge  
7 shall be selected for a term of not less than two years as provided by charter or ordinance.

8 2. Except where prohibited by charter or ordinance, the municipal judge may be a part-  
9 time judge and may serve as municipal judge in more than one municipality.

10 3. No person shall serve as a municipal judge of any municipality with a population of  
11 seven thousand five hundred or more or of any municipality in a county of the first class with a  
12 charter form of government unless the person is licensed to practice law in this state unless, prior  
13 to January 2, 1979, such person has served as municipal judge of that same municipality for at  
14 least two years.

15 4. Notwithstanding any other statute, a municipal judge need not be a resident of the  
16 municipality or of the circuit in which the municipal judge serves except where ordinance or  
17 charter provides otherwise. Municipal judges shall be residents of Missouri.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18           5. Judges selected under the provisions of this section shall be municipal judges of the  
19 circuit court and shall be divisions of the circuit court of the circuit in which the municipality,  
20 or major geographical portion thereof, is located. The judges of these municipal divisions shall  
21 be subject to the rules of the circuit court which are not inconsistent with the rules of the supreme  
22 court. The presiding judge of the circuit shall have general administrative authority over the  
23 judges and court personnel of the municipal divisions within the circuit.

24           6. No municipal judge shall hold any other office in the municipality which the  
25 municipal judge serves as judge. The compensation of any municipal judge and other court  
26 personnel shall not be dependent in any way upon the number of cases tried, the number of guilty  
27 verdicts reached or the amount of fines imposed or collected.

28           7. Municipal judges shall be at least twenty-one years of age. No person shall serve as  
29 municipal judge after that person has reached that person's seventy-fifth birthday.

30           8. Within six months after selection for the position, each municipal judge who is not  
31 licensed to practice law in this state shall satisfactorily complete the course of instruction for  
32 municipal judges prescribed by the supreme court. The state courts administrator shall certify  
33 to the supreme court the names of those judges who satisfactorily complete the prescribed  
34 course. If a municipal judge fails to complete satisfactorily the prescribed course within six  
35 months after the municipal judge's selection as municipal judge, the municipal judge's office  
36 shall be deemed vacant and such person shall not thereafter be permitted to serve as a municipal  
37 judge, nor shall any compensation thereafter be paid to such person for serving as municipal  
38 judge.

39           9. No municipal judge shall serve as a municipal judge in more than five municipalities  
40 at one time. **A court that serves more than one municipality shall be treated as a single**  
41 **municipality for purposes of this subsection.**

488.2250. 1. For all appeal transcripts of testimony given [~~or proceedings in any circuit~~  
2 ~~court~~], the court reporter shall receive the sum of three dollars and fifty cents per legal page for  
3 the preparation of a paper and an electronic version of the transcript.

4           2. In criminal cases where an appeal is taken by the defendant and it appears to the  
5 satisfaction of the court that the defendant is unable to pay the costs of the transcript for the  
6 purpose of perfecting the appeal, the court reporter shall receive a fee of two dollars and sixty  
7 cents per legal page for the preparation of a paper and an electronic version of the transcript.

8           3. Any judge, in his or her discretion, may order a transcript of all or any part of the  
9 evidence or oral proceedings and the court reporter shall receive the sum of two dollars and sixty  
10 cents per legal page for the preparation of a paper and an electronic version of the transcript.

11           4. For purposes of this section, a legal page, other than the first page and the final page  
12 of the transcript, shall be twenty-five lines, approximately eight and one-half inches by eleven

13 inches in size, with the left-hand margin of approximately one and one-half inches, and with the  
14 right-hand margin of approximately one-half inch.

15           5. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the payment of court reporter's fees provided  
16 in subsections 2 and 3 of this section shall be made by the state upon a voucher approved by the  
17 court. The cost to prepare all other transcripts of testimony or proceedings shall be borne by the  
18 party requesting their preparation and production, who shall reimburse the court reporter [~~the~~  
19 ~~sum provided in subsection 1 of this section~~].

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