



February 6, 2025

HOUSE BILL No. 1144

DIGEST OF HB 1144 (Updated February 6, 2025 12:07 pm - DI 125)

Citations Affected: IC 33-33.

Synopsis: Courts and court officers. Adds two superior courts to Hamilton County. Provides that the first judges of Hamilton superior courts No. 8 and No. 9 shall: (1) be elected at the November 2026 general election; (2) take office January 1, 2027; and (3) serve a term of six years. Allows the judges of the Hamilton circuit and superior courts to jointly appoint two additional magistrates to serve the Hamilton County courts. Allows the judges of the Elkhart circuit and superior courts to appoint five full-time magistrates. (Current law allows for the appointment of two magistrates.) Allows the judges of the Vigo circuit and superior courts to jointly appoint one magistrate to serve the Vigo County courts.

Effective: July 1, 2025.

Jeter

January 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Courts and Criminal Code.
January 21, 2025, reported — Do Pass. Referred to Committee on Ways and Means pursuant to Rule 126.3.
February 6, 2025, amended, reported — Do Pass.

HB 1144—LS 6663/DI 151



February 6, 2025

First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1144

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning courts and court officers.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 33-33-20-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.1-2006,
2 SECTION 503, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 2. (a) The judges of the Elkhart
4 circuit and superior courts may jointly appoint ~~two~~ **five (5)** full-time
5 magistrates under IC 33-23-5 to serve the circuit and superior courts.

6 (b) A magistrate continues in office until removed by the judges of
7 the circuit and superior courts.

8 SECTION 2. IC 33-33-29-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.123-2021,
9 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
10 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 2. (a) There are established ~~seven (7)~~ **nine (9)**
11 superior courts of record to be known as the:

- 12 (1) Hamilton superior court No. 1;
13 (2) Hamilton superior court No. 2;
14 (3) Hamilton superior court No. 3;
15 (4) Hamilton superior court No. 4;
16 (5) Hamilton superior court No. 5;
17 (6) Hamilton superior court No. 6; ~~and~~

HB 1144—LS 6663/DI 151



- 1 (7) Hamilton superior court No. 7;
 2 **(8) Hamilton superior court No. 8; and**
 3 **(9) Hamilton superior court No. 9.**

4 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, each Hamilton
 5 superior court is a standard superior court as described in IC 33-29-1.

6 (c) Hamilton County constitutes the judicial district of each court.

7 SECTION 3. IC 33-33-29-2.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 8 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 9 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 2.3. (a) Notwithstanding section**
 10 **2 of this chapter, Hamilton superior court No. 8 and Hamilton**
 11 **superior court No. 9 are established January 1, 2027.**

12 **(b) The first judge of Hamilton superior court No. 8 and**
 13 **Hamilton superior court No. 9 shall:**

- 14 **(1) be elected at the November 2026 general election;**
 15 **(2) take office January 1, 2027; and**
 16 **(3) serve a term of six (6) years.**

17 **(c) This section expires January 1, 2033.**

18 SECTION 4. IC 33-33-29-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.138-2020,
 19 SECTION 20, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 20 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 6. (a) The judge of the Hamilton circuit court and
 21 the judges of the Hamilton superior courts may jointly appoint ~~four (4)~~
 22 **six (6)** full-time magistrates under IC 33-23-5 to serve the circuit and
 23 superior courts.

24 (b) A magistrate continues in office until jointly removed by the
 25 judge of the Hamilton circuit court and the judges of the Hamilton
 26 superior courts.

27 SECTION 5. IC 33-33-84-22 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 28 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 29 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 22. (a) The judges of the Vigo**
 30 **circuit and superior courts may jointly appoint one (1) full-time**
 31 **magistrate under IC 33-23-5 to serve the circuit and superior**
 32 **courts.**

33 **(b) The magistrate continues in office until removed by the**
 34 **judges of the Vigo circuit and superior courts.**



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Courts and Criminal Code, to which was referred House Bill 1144, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1144 as introduced.)

MCNAMARA

Committee Vote: Yeas 13, Nays 0

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred House Bill 1144, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, between the enacting clause and line 1, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 1. IC 33-33-20-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.1-2006, SECTION 503, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 2. (a) The judges of the Elkhart circuit and superior courts may jointly appoint ~~two~~ **five (5)** full-time magistrates under IC 33-23-5 to serve the circuit and superior courts.

(b) A magistrate continues in office until removed by the judges of the circuit and superior courts."

Page 2, after line 19, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 5. IC 33-33-84-22 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 22. (a) The judges of the Vigo circuit and superior courts may jointly appoint one (1) full-time magistrate under IC 33-23-5 to serve the circuit and superior courts.**

(b) The magistrate continues in office until removed by the judges of the Vigo circuit and superior courts."

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1144 as printed January 21, 2025.)

THOMPSON

HB 1144—LS 6663/DI 151



Committee Vote: yeas 22, nays 0.

