

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

WHEREAS, the National Center for State Courts recently completed the Missouri Circuit Court Judicial Workload Assessment Study, which was undertaken in order to provide information about allocation of and need for judicial resources in the various judicial circuits; and

WHEREAS, the study shows that three of the largest judicial circuits in the state, the twenty-first circuit consisting of the county of St. Louis, the sixteenth circuit consisting of the county of Jackson County, and the thirty-first circuit consisting of the county of Greene, are each in need of at least five additional judicial officers; and

WHEREAS, the study also shows that several jurisdictions have one or more additional judicial officers than are needed to manage their daily caseloads; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Missouri has the authority to temporarily require transfer of any judge to another judicial circuit, pursuant to Section 6 of Article V of the Constitution of Missouri and Court Rule; and

WHEREAS, the Court currently utilizes a judicial transfer program and is examining ways in which to establish partnerships with judicial officers and personnel in order to expand such program:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-Fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby recognize that allocation and sharing of judicial resources is necessary for the administration of justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, encourage the Supreme Court to work with the presiding judges of the various judicial circuits, the Office of the State Courts Administrator, and the Circuit Court Budget Committee in order to efficiently allocate resources among the various circuits;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, also encourage the Court to continue to track workloads of judges in order to update the information presented in the Workload Assessment Study, and to examine and alter its Rules if necessary to effectively implement and expand the judicial transfer program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Supreme Court, the Circuit Court Budget Committee, and the Office of the State Courts Administrator, which shall send a copy to the presiding judge of each judicial circuit.