



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 243

S.P. 109

In Senate, January 20, 2023

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### **An Act To Eliminate Residency Requirements for District Court Judicial Appointments**

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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.