

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

**Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §157, sub-§1, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. III, §2, is further amended to read:

A. The Governor, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters and to confirmation by the Legislature, shall appoint to the District Court ~~3640~~ judges. At least one judge must be appointed from each district who is a resident of a county in which the district lies, except that in District 3 there must be 2 judges appointed who are residents of a county in which the district lies; in District 6 there must be 2 judges appointed who are residents of a county in which the district lies; and in District 9 there must be 2 judges appointed who are residents of a county in which the district lies. Four judges must be appointed to the District Court and assigned in a manner that ensures geographic distribution and the ability of the court to address drug-related criminal matters expeditiously. Each District Court Judge has a term of office of 7 years.

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

**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE**

**Administration - Attorney General 0310**

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for 4 Assistant Attorney General positions that will be dedicated to prosecuting drug crimes.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$327,180
All Other	\$0	\$19,764
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$346,944</b>

<b>ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE</b>		
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$346,944</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$346,944</b>

**JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

**Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063**

Initiative: Provides funding for 4 District Court Judge positions, 4 Deputy Marshal positions and 4 Assistant Clerk positions and related costs to address drug-related criminal matters.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	12.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,167,132
All Other	\$0	\$111,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,278,132</b>

<b>JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,278,132</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,278,132</b>

**PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Drug Enforcement Agency 0388**

Initiative: Provides funding for 14 Investigative Agent positions from the General Fund and funding for training and costs associated with conducting investigations from Other Special Revenue Funds.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
All Other	\$0	\$1,465,090
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,465,090</b>

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
All Other	\$0	\$227,033
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$227,033</b>

**PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**

<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	\$0	\$1,465,090
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	\$0	\$227,033
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<hr/> \$0	<hr/> \$1,692,123

<b>SECTION TOTALS</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	\$0	\$3,090,166
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	\$0	\$227,033
<b>SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<hr/> \$0	<hr/> \$3,317,199

**SUMMARY**

This amendment is a minority report. It provides that the 4 new judge positions are appointed to the District Court and assigned in a manner that ensures geographic distribution and the ability of the court to address drug-related criminal matters expeditiously.

The amendment also adds a General Fund appropriation for the appointment of the 4 new judges and their support staff.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
(See attached)