

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 123

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(By Delegates Frich, Manchin, Ellem, Sobonya, Marshall, Barill,
Pasdon, Walters, Longstreth, McCuskey, Ambler, Anderson,
Armstead, Arvon, Ashley, Azinger, Barrett, Border, Butler, Cadle,
Canterbury, Eldridge, Ellington, Espinosa, Evans, D., Folk,
Gearheart, Hamilton, Hamrick, Householder, Howell, Kump, Lane,
Lawrence, Lynch, Nelson, E., Raines, Romine, Rowan, Shott,
Skinner, Smith, R., Storch, Sumner, Wells, Westfall and Williams)

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11 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study
12 the feasibility of reapportioning the number of magistrates
13 among our counties to achieve greater efficiencies in the
14 administration of justice.

15 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes the need of our system for
16 the efficient administration of justice as close to the people as
17 possible; and

18 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes that our magistrates are
19 the members of our judicial system who are most frequently
20 encountered by the public, and that the magistrates of our state
21 deal with a wide variety of cases and controversies; and

22 WHEREAS, The Legislature seeks to address concerns that the
23 numbers of magistrates in some counties are too few to adequately
24 do the amount of work required; and

25 WHEREAS, The Legislature believes there is a need to determine
26 whether greater efficiencies to the public in the administration of
27 justice could be achieved if an adequate number of magistrates were

1 available in every county to do the work of administering justice;
2 therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

4 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study the
5 feasibility of reapportioning the number of magistrates among our
6 counties to achieve greater efficiencies in the administration of
7 justice; and, be it

8 *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Government and
9 Finance report to the regular session of the Legislature, 2014, on
10 its findings, conclusions and recommendations, together with drafts
11 of any legislation necessary to effectuate its recommendations;
12 and, be it

13 *Further Resolved,* That the expenses necessary to conduct this
14 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be
15 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on
16 Government and Finance.