

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6291

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Judiciary, February 5, 2002

**Title:** An act relating to residency requirements of part-time judges.

**Brief Description:** Revising residency requirements of part-time judges.

**Sponsors:** Senators Kline and Johnson.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Judiciary: 1/28/02, 2/5/02 [DP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Kastama, Vice Chair; Costa, Johnson, Long, McCaslin, Poulsen and Thibaudeau.

**Staff:** Lisa Ellis (786-7421)

**Background:** In cities and towns with populations of 400,000 or less, municipal court judges must be residents of the county in which the municipal court was created. Part-time appointed municipal court judges who do not appoint a court commissioner are exempt from this residency requirement.

The District and Municipal Court Judges' Association recommends revising the residency requirements in order to provide a uniform requirement for part-time municipal court judges.

**Summary of Bill:** If a city or town has a population of 400,000 or less, all municipal court judges, including part-time appointed municipal court judges who do not appoint a court commissioner, must be residents of the county where the court is located.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The current inconsistency in the residency requirements for part-time judges should be eliminated.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Doug Haake, Administrative Office of the Courts.