

EXTRA SESSION

CHAPTER 14—S. F. No. 6

[Coded in Part]

An act relating to judicial districts and judges of the district court and justices of the supreme court; pertaining to certain administrative and regulatory matters in connection therewith; amending Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 484.34; repealing Section 2.72, as amended.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota :

Section 1. [2.722] **Judicial districts.** [Subdivision 1.] The state is hereby divided into 14 judicial districts, composed of the following named counties, respectively, in each of which districts 2 or more judges shall be chosen as hereinafter specified :

1. Carlton, St. Louis, Lake and Cook; six judges.
2. Ramsey; eight judges.
3. Anoka, Isanti, Wright, Sherburne, Kanabec, Pine, Chisago, and Washington; three judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Anoka, Lindstrom-Center City, and Stillwater;
4. Hennepin; fourteen judges;
5. Benton, Douglas, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Stearns, Todd, Clay, Becker and Wadena; four judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Moorhead, Fergus Falls, Little Falls, and St. Cloud.
6. Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Renville, Swift, Yellow Medicine, Big Stone, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin; three judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Glenwood, Montevideo, and Litchfield;
7. Norman, Mahnomen, Polk, Red Lake, Pennington, Marshall, Kittson, and Roseau; two judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Crookston and Thief River Falls;
8. Goodhue and Dakota; two judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Red Wing and Hastings;
9. Nicollet, Brown, Redwood, Lyon, Lincoln, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood, Rock and Nobles; three judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Marshall, Windom, and New Ulm;

10. Wabasha, Winona, Houston, and Olmsted; two judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Rochester and Winona;

11. Aitkin, Itasca, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Beltrami, Lake of the Woods, Clearwater, Cass and Koochiching; three judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Bemidji, Brainerd, International Falls; and Grand Rapids;

12. Carver, McLeod, Sibley, Scott and LeSueur; two judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Shakopee and Glencoe;

13. Blue Earth, Watonwan, Faribault, Martin and Jackson; two judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Mankato and Fairmont;

14. Rice, Waseca, Steele, Dodge, Freeborn, Mower, and Fillmore; three judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Owatonna, Albert Lea and Austin;

Sec. 2. [Subd. 2.] Effective July 1, 1959, the state is divided into ten judicial districts composed of the following named counties, respectively, in each of which districts two or more judges shall be chosen as hereinafter specified:

1. Goodhue, Dakota, Carver, LeSueur, McLeod, Scott and Sibley; four judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Red Wing, Hastings, Shakopee, and Glencoe;

2. Ramsey; eight judges;

3. Wabasha, Winona, Houston, Rice, Olmsted, Dodge, Steele, Waseca, Freeborn, Mower and Fillmore; five judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Owatonna, Albert Lea, Austin, Rochester, and Winona;

4. Hennepin; 14 judges;

5. Blue Earth, Watonwan, Lyon, Redwood, Brown, Nicollet, Lincoln, Cottonwood, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock, Faribault, Martin and Jackson; five judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Marshall, Windom, Fairmont, New Ulm, and Mankato;

6. Carlton, St. Louis, Lake, and Cook, six judges;

7. Benton, Douglas, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Stearns, Todd, Clay, Becker and Wadena; four judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Moorhead, Fergus Falls, Little Falls, and St. Cloud;

8. Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Meeker, Ren-

ville, Swift, Yellow Medicine, Big Stone, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin; three judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Glenwood, Montevideo, and Litchfield;

9. Norman, Polk, Marshall, Kittson, Red Lake, Roseau, Mahnomen, Pennington, Aitkin, Itasca, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Beltrami, Lake of the Woods, Clearwater, Cass, and Koochi-ching; five judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Crookston, Thief River Falls, Bemidji, Brainerd, Grand Rapids, and International Falls;

10. Anoka, Isanti, Wright, Sherburne, Kanabec, Pine, Chisago, and Washington; three judges; and permanent chambers shall be maintained in Anoka, Lindstrom-Center City, and Stillwater;

Sec. 3. [2.723] Judges to continue to serve. Each of the present judges of the district court shall continue to serve as one of the judges of the district court of the State of Minnesota for the term for which elected and in the district hereby created and established wherein he was residing at the time of his election.

Sec. 4. [2.724] Chief judge of supreme court, duties. [Subdivision 1.] When public conveniences and necessity require it, the chief justice of the supreme court may assign any judge of the district court to serve and discharge the duties of judge of any other district not his own at such times as the chief justice may determine.

Sec. 5. [Subd. 2.] To promote and secure more efficient administration of justice, the chief justice of the supreme court of the state shall supervise and coordinate the work of the district courts of the state. The supreme court may provide by rule that the chief justice not be required to write opinions as a member of the supreme court. Its rules may further provide for it to hear and consider cases in divisions, and it may by rule assign temporarily any retired justice of the supreme court or duly appointed commissioner of said court, or one district judge at a time to act as a justice of the supreme court. At any time that a court commissioner is acting as a justice of the supreme court under this act, he shall receive, in addition to his retirement pay, such further sum, to be paid out of the general revenue fund of the state, as shall afford him the same salary as an associate justice of the supreme court.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 484.34, is amended to read:

484.34. Presiding judge's duties; court business regulated and divided. *Subdivision 1.* In all districts the judges shall meet annually and elect one of their number to be presiding judge, who shall be designated as the chief judge thereof and who shall preside at all meetings of the judges of such district. He shall attend all meetings of the presiding judges of the state which may be called by the chief justice pursuant to Section 5 of this act, and generally shall be responsible for the coordinating of the business of the court in such district. The business of the court may be divided between the judges, and otherwise regulated as they by rule or order shall direct. Each may try court or jury causes separately during the same term and at the same time, or two or more may sit together in the trial of any cause or matter before the court. If there be a division of opinion, that of the majority shall prevail. If the division be equal, that of the presiding judge, or, if he be not sitting, that of the judge senior in age, shall prevail. In districts composed of *more than one county*, the *presiding* judge, at least 30 days before the time appointed by law for holding of a general term of the court in each county, by order filed in the office of the clerk of the court in that county, shall designate and assign one or more of the judges of such district to preside at the term so appointed, and the clerk forthwith shall mail a copy of such order to each judge of the district. If any judge assigned to hold a term of court, as herein provided, is incapacitated by illness or otherwise to preside at such term, another judge shall be designated and assigned in like manner to take his place. The same judge shall not be designated or assigned to hold two consecutive general terms in the same county *unless the presiding judge or the judges of the district by order or rule otherwise direct.*

Subd. 2. For purposes of applying this section only, the judicial districts as established in Section 2 of this act shall be used from and after July 1, 1957.

Sec. 7. Effective date. All, except as otherwise specified in Section 2, of this act takes effect July 1, 1957.

Sec. 8. Repealer. Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 2.72, as amended by Laws 1955, Chapter 483, is repealed.

Approved May 2, 1957.
