

**House Study Bill 7 - Introduced**

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED JUDICIAL BRANCH  
BILL)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to judicial residency requirements.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 602.6201, subsection 2, Code 2019, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. a. A district judge must be a resident of the judicial  
4 election district in which appointed ~~and retained~~ within ninety  
5 days of appointment.

6 b. Subject to paragraph "a" and the provision for  
7 reassignment of judges under [section 602.6108](#), a district judge  
8 shall serve in the district of the judge's residence while  
9 in office, regardless of the number of judgeships to which  
10 the district is entitled under the formula prescribed by the  
11 supreme court in [subsection 3](#).

12 Sec. 2. Section 602.6305, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2019,  
13 are amended to read as follows:

14 2. A person does not qualify for appointment to the office  
15 of district associate judge unless the person is at the time  
16 of appointment a resident of the judicial ~~election~~ district in  
17 which the vacancy exists, licensed to practice law in Iowa,  
18 and will be able, measured by the person's age at the time of  
19 appointment, to complete the initial term of office prior to  
20 reaching age seventy-two. An applicant for district associate  
21 judge shall file a certified application form, to be provided  
22 by the supreme court, with the chairperson of the county  
23 magistrate appointing commission.

24 3. A district associate judge must be a resident of the  
25 judicial election district in which the office is held ~~during~~  
26 ~~the entire term of office~~ within ninety days of appointment.  
27 A district associate judge shall serve within the judicial  
28 district in which appointed, as directed by the chief judge,  
29 and is subject to reassignment under [section 602.6108](#).

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 Current law requires district judge nominees and district  
34 associate judge nominees to reside within the judicial election  
35 district of the court to which they are nominated at the time

1 of appointment. This bill provides that district judges  
2 and district associate judges need only reside within the  
3 judicial election district within 90 days of appointment, but  
4 that a district associate judge must be a resident of the  
5 judicial district in which the vacancy exists at the time of  
6 appointment.