THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1375

Session of 1975

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. ECKENSBERGER, PRATT, DOYLE, ZORD, REED, CUMBERLAND, ZELLER, POLITE, STAPLETON, RITTER, ZWIKL, DAVIS, DiCARLO, BRANDT, LEHR, McGINNIS, SPENCER, RUGGIERO AND GARZIA, JUNE 3, 1975

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 25, 1975

AN ACT

Implementing the provisions of article V of the Constitution of 2 Pennsylvania relating to district justices; establishing 3 magisterial districts; setting salaries and expenses; providing for certain education requirements; fixing 4 5 jurisdiction; creating an administrator for district justices and imposing powers and duties on such administrator; requiring certain liability insurance; and making repeals. 8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 9 hereby enacts as follows: 10 ARTICLE I 11 Preliminary Provisions 12 Section 101. Short Title. -- This act shall be known and may 13 be cited as the "Magisterial District Reform Act." 14 Section 102. Application. -- Except for magisterial districts 15 in cities of the first class and counties of the first class, 16 this act shall apply to all magisterial districts in this 17 Commonwealth. Section 103. Definitions. -- As used in this act: 18 "Board" means the administrative board known as the "Minor 19

- 1 Judiciary Education Board" established by this act.
- 2 "Court" means the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania or the court
- 3 of common pleas for each judicial district under the direction
- 4 of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.
- 5 "Department" means the Department of Education.
- 6 "District justice" means a justice of the peace elected or
- 7 appointed to a term of office on or after January 1, 1976 1970.
- 8 "Political subdivision" means a city of the second class, a
- 9 city of the second class A, city of the third class, borough,
- 10 incorporated town and townships of the first or second class or
- 11 any similar general purpose unit of government hereafter created
- 12 by the General Assembly.
- 13 "Population" means the number of persons residing within a
- 14 political subdivision or part thereof as determined by the then
- 15 current Federal decennial or Federal special census.
- 16 "Population density" means the number of persons residing
- 17 within a political subdivision or part thereof as determined by
- 18 dividing said number by the land area expressed in square miles
- 19 as determined in the official publication by the Bureau of
- 20 Statistics of the Department of Commerce.
- 21 ARTICLE II
- 22 Magisterial Districts and Compensation
- 23 Section 201. Classification of Magisterial Districts.--(a)
- 24 Second class counties. -- The classes of magisterial districts in
- 25 judicial districts coextensive with counties of the second class
- 26 shall be determined as follows:
- 27 (1) Magisterial districts of the first class shall have a
- 28 population density of more than 5,000 persons per square mile
- 29 and a population of not less than 65,000 persons.
- 30 (2) Magisterial districts of the second class shall have a

- 1 population density of more than 500 persons per square mile and
- 2 a population of between 22,500 and 65,000 persons.
- 3 (3) Magisterial districts of the third class shall have a
- 4 population density of more than 200 persons per square mile and
- 5 a population of between 12,000 and 22,500 persons.
- 6 (4) Magisterial districts of the fourth class shall have a
- 7 population density of more than 70 persons per square mile and a
- 8 population of between 7,500 and 12,000 persons.
- 9 (5) Magisterial districts of the fifth class shall have a
- 10 population density of less than 70 persons per square mile and a
- 11 population of between 4,000 and 7,500 persons.
- 12 (b) Other counties.--The classes of magisterial districts in
- 13 judicial districts not coextensive with counties of the first
- 14 class or counties of the second class shall be determined as
- 15 follows:
- 16 (1) Magisterial districts of the first class shall have a
- 17 population density of more than 1,000 persons per square mile
- 18 and a population of not less than 15,000 persons.
- 19 (2) Magisterial districts of the second class shall have a
- 20 population density of more than 400 persons per square mile and
- 21 a population of not less than 4,000 persons.
- 22 (3) Magisterial districts of the third class shall have a
- 23 population density of less than 400 persons per square mile and
- 24 a population of not less than 4,000 persons.
- 25 (4) Magisterial districts of the fourth class shall have a
- 26 population density of less than 400 persons per square mile and
- 27 a population of between 2,000 and 4,000 persons. The number of
- 28 magisterial districts of the fourth class within a judicial
- 29 district shall not be increased.
- 30 Section 202. Reestablishment of Magisterial Districts.--(a)

- 1 General rule. -- In each year following that in which the Federal
- 2 decennial census is officially reported as required by Federal
- 3 law the court shall reestablish the number, boundaries and
- 4 classes of magisterial districts within each judicial district
- 5 except:
- 6 (1) The first judicial district.
- 7 (2) Any judicial district where a community court has been
- 8 established and not discontinued.
- 9 The number, boundaries and class of magisterial districts within
- 10 each judicial district shall be revised from time to time as
- 11 required for the efficient administration of justice within each
- 12 magisterial district.
- 13 (b) Discontinuance of community court. -- The court upon the
- 14 discontinuance of a community court shall establish the number,
- 15 boundaries and classes of magisterial districts within the
- 16 judicial district embracing such discontinued community court.
- 17 Such action shall be completed prior to the first Monday of
- 18 January of the odd-numbered year next following the primary
- 19 election at which the discontinuance of the community court is
- 20 approved.
- 21 (c) Standards for establishment of magisterial districts.--
- 22 In the case of a political subdivision containing within its
- 23 boundaries two or more magisterial districts, the court shall
- 24 divide the political subdivision into magisterial districts as
- 25 nearly equal as possible in population and area, and the court
- 26 may presume that the population density of each part of a
- 27 political subdivision is the same population density as for the
- 28 whole political subdivision. The court in establishing the
- 29 number and boundaries of magisterial districts shall not
- 30 subdivide political subdivisions unless either:

- 1 (1) the political subdivision contains two or more
- 2 noncontiguous parts; or
- 3 (2) the political subdivision contains within its boundaries
- 4 two or more magisterial districts, in which case wards or other
- 5 election districts of the political subdivision shall not be
- 6 subdivided.
- 7 Section 203. Number of Justices.--There shall be one
- 8 district justice for each magisterial district established.
- 9 Section 204. Full-time Occupation. -- The office of district
- 10 justice shall be a full-time position and any holder thereof
- 11 shall not engage in any other gainful employment except that of
- 12 district justice. NO DISTRICT JUSTICE SHALL HOLD ANY OTHER
- 13 ELECTED OR APPOINTED PUBLIC OFFICE IN THE COMMONWEALTH. ALL
- 14 DISTRICT JUSTICES SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE CANONS OF ETHICS
- 15 APPLIED TO JUDGES OF THE COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS OF THIS
- 16 COMMONWEALTH INSOFAR AS SUCH CANONS APPLY TO SALARIES, FULL-TIME

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- 17 DUTIES AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.
- 18 SECTION 205. RETIRED DISTRICT JUSTICES.--RETIRED DISTRICT
- 19 JUSTICES, WHO RETIRE SUBSEQUENT TO JANUARY 1, 1976, MAY BE
- 20 ELIGIBLE FOR RECALL TO DUTY BY THE DISTRICT JUSTICE
- 21 ADMINISTRATOR AT THE SAME PER DIEM SALARY AS PAID TO A DISTRICT
- 22 JUSTICE SERVING OUTSIDE OF THE ELECTED MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT.
- 23 A QUALIFIED RETIRED DISTRICT JUSTICE, WHO WISHES TO BE
- 24 RECALLED FOR DUTY, SHALL REGISTER WITH THE DISTRICT JUSTICE
- 25 ADMINISTRATOR AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY ANY RULES AND REGULATIONS
- 26 SET FORTH BY THE ADMINISTRATOR.
- 27 RETIRED DISTRICT JUSTICES SHALL NOT INCLUDE DISTRICT JUSTICES
- 28 DEFEATED FOR REELECTION BY THE ELECTORATE, NOR SHALL IT INCLUDE
- 29 ANY DISTRICT JUSTICE WHO WAS SUSPENDED OR REMOVED FROM OFFICE.
- 30 Section 205 206. Compensation.--(a) Annual compensation.--A

- 1 district justice shall receive an annual salary of \$19,500 paid
- 2 by the Commonwealth in bimonthly installments. The court of
- 3 common pleas of the judicial district in which the district
- 4 justice presides shall certify the number of district justices
- 5 within the judicial district to the State Treasurer.
- 6 (b) Expenses while temporarily assigned. -- Any district
- 7 justice temporarily assigned to sit outside the political
- 8 subdivision in which such justice's magisterial district is
- 9 located shall be paid by the county, in which magisterial
- 10 district the justice is temporarily assigned to, the actual,
- 11 accountable expenses, not to exceed \$44 per day, and mileage at
- 12 15c per mile for each day as such justice is so assigned.
- 13 Section 206 207. Mandatory Liability Insurance.--Every
- 14 district magistrate shall be covered by an errors and omissions
- 15 liability insurance policy to be purchased by the Commonwealth
- 16 in such amounts as are set forth by the Supreme Court.
- 17 The cost of such liability insurance shall be equally divided
- 18 between the Commonwealth and the individual district justices.
- 19 Section 207 208. Offices.--The district justice shall
- 20 establish an office or offices within the magisterial district
- 21 in locations approved by the president judge of the court of
- 22 common pleas in compliance with standards and rules prescribed
- 23 by the Supreme Court.
- 24 Reasonable costs and expenses incident to the establishment,
- 25 maintenance and operation of offices of district justices as
- 26 approved by the president judge of the court of common pleas and
- 27 the county commissioners in compliance with standards and rules
- 28 prescribed by the Supreme Court shall be paid by the county in
- 29 which the offices are located.
- 30 Section 208 209. Costs; Disposition.--All costs collected by <-

- 1 a district justice shall be paid monthly to the county in which
- 2 his magisterial district is located, and such costs shall be
- 3 retained by the county for its use.
- 4 ARTICLE III
- 5 Powers and Duties
- 6 Section 301. Powers of District Justices.--Every district
- 7 justice shall have power to issue every lawful process to or to
- 8 be served or enforced by system and related personnel and to
- 9 make such lawful orders as his official business may require.
- 10 Section 302. Seal.--Each magisterial district shall have a
- 11 seal, which shall be in the custody of the district justice
- 12 elected or appointed for such district. The official acts of the
- 13 district justice shall be authenticated therewith. There shall
- 14 be engraved on the seal such inscription as may be specified by
- 15 general rule.
- 16 Section 303. Jurisdiction.--Except as otherwise provided,
- 17 district justices shall, under procedures prescribed by general
- 18 rule, have jurisdiction of the following matters:
- 19 (1) All civil claims wherein the sum demanded does not
- 20 exceed \$2,000, exclusive of interest and costs, in the following
- 21 classes of cases:
- 22 (i) actions in assumpsit, except cases where the title to
- 23 real estate may be in question;
- 24 (ii) actions in trespass, including all forms of trespass
- 25 and trespass on the case; and
- 26 (iii) actions for fines and penalties by any government
- 27 agency.
- 28 A plaintiff may waive a portion of the claim of more than \$2,000
- 29 so as to bring the matter within the jurisdiction of a district
- 30 justice. Such waiver shall remain effective except upon appeal

- 1 by either party or when the judgment is set aside upon
- 2 certiorari.
- 3 (2) All summary offenses, except those within the
- 4 jurisdiction of an established and open traffic court.
- 5 (3) All violations under the provisions of section 1037 of
- 6 the act of April 29, 1959 (P.L.58, No.32), known as "The Vehicle
- 7 Code, "provided the following criteria are met:
- 8 (i) the violation is a first offense;
- 9 (ii) no personal injury resulted from the violation;
- 10 (iii) no property damage resulted from the violation;
- 11 (iv) the defendant agrees to plead PLEADS guilty; and <-
- 12 (v) the term of any prison sentence will not exceed one
- 13 year.
- 14 THE ARRESTING AUTHORITY SHALL TRANSMIT A COPY OF THE CHARGE <--
- 15 OF ANY VIOLATION OF SECTION 1037 OF "THE VEHICLE CODE," TO THE COUNTY
- 16 CLERK OF COURTS WITHIN FIVE DAYS AFTER THE PRELIMINARY ARRAIGNMENT.
- 17 WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER THE DISPOSITION, THE DISTRICT JUSTICE SHALL
- 18 CERTIFY THE DISPOSITION TO THE COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS.
- 19 (4) All violations under the provisions of Title 18 (Crimes
- 20 and Offenses) of the act of November 25, 1970 (P.L.707, No.230),
- 21 known as the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes which are
- 22 classified as misdemeanors of the third degree, EXCEPT <--
- 23 VIOLATIONS UNDER SECTIONS 4303, 4321, 4323 AND 5103 OF TITLE 18,
- 24 provided the following criteria are met:
- 25 (i) the violation is a first offense;
- 26 $\frac{\text{(ii)}}{\text{(I)}}$ (I) the misdemeanor is not the result of a reduced <--
- 27 charge;
- 28 (iii) (II) the defendant agrees to waive a jury trial PLEADS <---
- 29 GUILTY; and
- 30 (iv) (III) any personal injury and/or property damage is <-

- 1 slight LESS THAN \$100.
- 2 (5) Matters arising under the act of April 6, 1951 (P.L.69,

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- 3 No.20), known as "The Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951," which
- 4 are stated therein to be within the jurisdiction of a justice of
- 5 the peace.
- 6 (6) As commissioners to preside at arraignments, fix and
- 7 accept bail, issue warrants and perform duties of a similar
- 8 nature including the jurisdiction of a committing magistrate in
- 9 all criminal proceedings.
- 10 (7) All matters jurisdiction of which is vested in district
- 11 justices by any statute.
- 12 Section 304. Venue and Process.--(a) Venue.--The venue of a
- 13 district justice concerning matters over which jurisdiction is
- 14 conferred by section 303 shall be as prescribed by general rule.
- 15 (b) Process.--The process of the district justice shall
- 16 extend beyond the limits of the magisterial district to the
- 17 extent prescribed by general rule.
- 18 Section 305. Lien of Judgment.--No judgment of a district
- 19 justice shall in any manner operate as a lien on real property
- 20 until a transcript of the record showing a final judgment of a
- 21 district justice has been filed in the manner prescribed by
- 22 general rules in the office of the clerk of the court of common
- 23 pleas of the county where the property is situated, or in the
- 24 office of the clerk of the branch of the court of common pleas
- 25 embracing such county. After such entry the judgment shall, from
- 26 the date of such entry, be a lien upon property to the same
- 27 extent that judgment recovered in the court of common pleas is a
- 28 lien. No such transcript shall be filed until after 30 days
- 29 after the entry of final judgment by the district justice. No
- 30 execution against real estate shall be issued by a district

1	justice.
2	ARTICLE IV
3	Costs
4	Section 401. Criminal Cases The costs to be charged by the
5	minor judiciary in every criminal case, except as hereinafter
6	provided, shall be as follows:
7	(1) Summary conviction, except motor vehicle cases \$11
8	(2) Summary convictions, motor vehicle cases \$10
9	(3) Misdemeanor \$13
10	(4) Felony \$17
11	Such costs shall include all charges including the costs of
12	postage and registered mail and the costs of giving a transcript
13	to the prosecutor or defendant, or both, if requested.
14	Section 402. Payment of Summary Conviction Costs by
15	County(a) Division of costsIn every case of summary
16	conviction in which the evidence is not sufficient to convict
17	and the defendant is dismissed, the costs thereof shall be borne
18	by the county if the prosecutor is a police officer engaged as
19	such in the employ of this Commonwealth or of any of its
20	political subdivisions. In all other cases, the costs shall be
21	paid by the prosecutor or by the defendant if so permitted by
22	law.
23	(b) County to pay where defaultIn every case of summary
24	conviction in which the defendant is convicted and sentenced to
25	jail in default of the payment of the fine and costs imposed,
26	the costs of prosecution shall be paid by the county.
27	(c) County of the second classIn any case before a
28	salaried magistrate where costs are payable by a county of the
29	second class, the costs chargeable to the county shall be one-
30	half of the costs set forth in section 401.

1	Sect	ion 403. Civil CasesThe costs to be charged by the
2	minor j	udiciary in every civil case, except as hereinafter
3	provide	d, shall be as follows:
4	(1)	Assumpsit or trespass involving \$100 or less \$ 7.50
5	(2)	Assumpsit or trespass involving more than
6		\$100 but not more than \$300 \$10.00
7	(3)	Assumpsit or trespass involving more than
8		\$300 but not more than \$500 \$12.50
9	(4)	Assumpsit or trespass involving more than \$500 \$15.00
10	(5)	Landlord and tenant proceeding \$15.00
11	(6)	Order of execution \$ 5.00
12	Such	costs shall include all charges including, when called
13	for, th	e costs relating to depositions and interrogatories and
14	the cos	ts of postage and registered mail, except the costs of a
15	transcr	ipt of every proceeding on appeal or certiorari
16	(includ	ing affidavit, bail and certificate), which shall be
17	\$2.50 p	er transcript.
18	Sect	ion 404. Unclassified Costs or Charges The costs to be
19		
エン	charged	by the minor judiciary in the following instances not
20	_	
	_	by the minor judiciary in the following instances not
20	readily	by the minor judiciary in the following instances not classifiable shall be as follows:
20 21	readily	by the minor judiciary in the following instances not classifiable shall be as follows: Order for relief or removal of pauper
20 21 22	readily	by the minor judiciary in the following instances not classifiable shall be as follows: Order for relief or removal of pauper
20212223	readily (1) (2)	by the minor judiciary in the following instances not classifiable shall be as follows: Order for relief or removal of pauper
2021222324	readily (1) (2)	by the minor judiciary in the following instances not classifiable shall be as follows: Order for relief or removal of pauper
202122232425	readily (1) (2)	by the minor judiciary in the following instances not classifiable shall be as follows: Order for relief or removal of pauper
20212223242526	readily (1) (2) (3)	by the minor judiciary in the following instances not classifiable shall be as follows: Order for relief or removal of pauper
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	readily (1) (2) (3)	by the minor judiciary in the following instances not classifiable shall be as follows: Order for relief or removal of pauper

1	(7) Probating accounts\$3.00
2	(8) Issuing a search warrant\$3.00
3	Section 405. Federal Cases The costs to be charged by the
4	minor judiciary for services under the laws of the United States
5	shall be as follows:
6	(1) For certificate of protection\$2.00
7	(2) For certificate of lost protection \$2.00
8	(3) Warrant\$2.00
9	(4) Commitment\$2.00
10	(5) Summons for seamen in admiralty case \$2.00
11	hearing thereon\$2.00
12	(6) For certificate to clerk of the district court
13	to issue admiralty process\$2.00
14	(7) For affidavit of claims and copies thereof \$2.00
15	(8) Affidavit of defense\$2.00
16	ARTICLE V
17	Education
18	Section 501. Minor Judiciary Education Board; Department of
18 19	Section 501. Minor Judiciary Education Board; Department of Public Instruction EDUCATIONThere shall be appointed by the
19	Public Instruction EDUCATIONThere shall be appointed by the <
19 20	Public Instruction EDUCATIONThere shall be appointed by the < Governor with the consent of two-thirds of the members elected
19 20 21	Public Instruction EDUCATIONThere shall be appointed by the <- Governor with the consent of two-thirds of the members elected to the Senate an administrative board composed of seven members
19 20 21 22	Public Instruction EDUCATIONThere shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent of two-thirds of the members elected to the Senate an administrative board composed of seven members to be known as the "Minor Judiciary Education Board." Three of
19 20 21 22 23	Public Instruction EDUCATIONThere shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent of two-thirds of the members elected to the Senate an administrative board composed of seven members to be known as the "Minor Judiciary Education Board." Three of the members of the board shall be members of the bar of the
19 20 21 22 23 24	Public Instruction EDUCATIONThere shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent of two-thirds of the members elected to the Senate an administrative board composed of seven members to be known as the "Minor Judiciary Education Board." Three of the members of the board shall be members of the bar of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, three of the members shall be
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Public Instruction EDUCATIONThere shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent of two-thirds of the members elected to the Senate an administrative board composed of seven members to be known as the "Minor Judiciary Education Board." Three of the members of the board shall be members of the bar of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, three of the members shall be district justices or judges of the Traffic Court of the City of
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	Public Instruction EDUCATIONThere shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent of two-thirds of the members elected to the Senate an administrative board composed of seven members to be known as the "Minor Judiciary Education Board." Three of the members of the board shall be members of the bar of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, three of the members shall be district justices or judges of the Traffic Court of the City of Philadelphia, and one member shall be a lay citizen. Three
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	Public Instruction EDUCATIONThere shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent of two-thirds of the members elected to the Senate an administrative board composed of seven members to be known as the "Minor Judiciary Education Board." Three of the members of the board shall be members of the bar of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, three of the members shall be district justices or judges of the Traffic Court of the City of Philadelphia, and one member shall be a lay citizen. Three members shall be appointed for terms of five years, three

- 1 each appointment shall be for a term of five years and until a
- 2 successor has been appointed and qualified. Four members of the
- 3 board shall constitute a quorum; and, no action of the board
- 4 shall be valid unless it shall have the concurrence of at least
- 5 four members. Each member shall be paid \$50 for each day or part
- 6 thereof upon which he attends a board meeting, or performs any
- 7 duty assigned to him by the chairman; and, he shall be
- 8 reimbursed for reasonable traveling or other expenses incurred
- 9 incident to such attendance and to such assigned duty. The board
- 10 shall organize by electing a chairman. The board shall prescribe
- 11 and approve the subject matter and the examination for the
- 12 course of instruction and training required by the Constitution
- 13 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and this act. The department
- 14 shall serve as the administrative officers of the board and in
- 15 such capacity shall, subject to the direction of the board,
- 16 administer the course of instruction and training and conduct
- 17 the examination.
- 18 Section 502. Course of Instruction. -- District justices shall
- 19 complete a course of training and instruction in the duties of
- 20 their offices as required by the Constitution of the
- 21 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and successfully pass an
- 22 examination prior to filing a nominating petition for a
- 23 candidacy in a primary election for the office of district
- 24 justice, which course of training and instruction shall not
- 25 exceed four weeks in duration and shall consist of a minimum of
- 26 40 hours of class instruction in civil and criminal law
- 27 including evidence, procedure, summary proceeding, and laws
- 28 relating to motor vehicles. in the case of all said officials in
- 29 it. Where it is economically unfeasible to conduct a class, the
- 30 department shall provide equivalent instruction by

- 1 correspondence, such training and instruction to be prescribed
- 2 by the board. The department shall make the course of
- 3 instruction available at such times as determined by it and the
- 4 board, so as to insure that any district justice, to be elected
- 5 or appointed may qualify to assume office as soon as possible.
- 6 By regulation the board shall direct the department to conduct
- 7 the course at such time, at such places and in such manner as it
- 8 shall prescribe.
- 9 In addition to those required by the Constitution of the
- 10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and this act to complete the course
- 11 of training and instruction and successfully pass an examination
- 12 prior to filing a nominating petition for a candidacy in a
- 13 primary election for the office of district justice, any
- 14 interested person may apply to the department to be enrolled in
- 15 the course of instruction and take the examination, subject to
- 16 such rules and regulations as the department with the approval
- 17 of the board may determine. Any such interested person who
- 18 successfully completes the course and passes the examination
- 19 shall secure an appropriate certificate from the department and
- 20 file same as set forth in section 505.
- 21 Section 503. Costs.--The course of training and instruction
- 22 required by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- 23 and this act shall be provided at the expense of the
- 24 Commonwealth. Any person elected or appointed to the office of
- 25 district justice, justice of the peace or judge who successfully

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- 26 completed said course shall receive the sum of \$10 for each day
- 27 of actual attendance at class instruction to defray his
- 28 expenses, together with such mileage expenses as determined by
- 29 the department. Until such person has successfully completed the
- 30 course of training and instruction and passed the examination,

- 1 he shall not file any nominating petition for the office of
- 2 district justice anywhere in the Commonwealth.
- 3 Section 504.--Rules and Regulations.--The department shall,
- 4 with the approval of the board, have the power to promulgate
- 5 such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out its
- 6 duties under this act.
- 7 Section 505. Completion of Course. -- Upon the successful
- 8 completion of the course of training and instruction and
- 9 examination, the department shall issue a certificate in the
- 10 form prescribed by the board, certifying that such person is
- 11 qualified to perform his duties as required by the Constitution
- 12 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Such certificate shall be
- 13 filed in the office of the prothonotary of the county in which
- 14 the district justice resides. In the event that a AN APPOINTED <-
- 15 district justice as required by the Constitution of the
- 16 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and this act to successfully
- 17 complete such course, has failed to obtain and file such
- 18 certificate in the proper prothonotary's office within nine
- 19 months after his election or appointment, said office of
- 20 district justice or judge shall be vacant, such vacancy to be
- 21 filled as otherwise provided by law, and in the case of justice
- 22 of the peace, said office shall be abolished.
- 23 Section 506. Continuing Education Requirement. -- Every
- 24 district justice shall complete a continuing education program
- 25 each year equivalent to not less than eight 32 hours per year in <
- 26 such courses or programs as are approved by the board.
- 27 ARTICLE VI
- 28 District Justice Administrator
- 29 Section 601. Office of District Justice Administrator.--
- 30 There is hereby established within the Administrative Office of

- 1 Pennsylvania Courts a branch office to be known as the Office of
- 2 District Justice Administrator to be supervised by such person
- 3 as the Supreme Court shall appoint to act as administrator.
- 4 Section 602. Powers and Duties.--The district justice
- 5 administrator shall have the following powers and duties:
- 6 (1) to be responsible for the prompt and proper disposition
- 7 of the business of all district justices;
- 8 (2) to perform all functions now carried out by the court
- 9 administrator;
- 10 (3) to require and receive reports from the various judicial
- 11 districts relating to the utilization of the district justices
- 12 in the judicial districts;
- 13 (4) to transfer the various district justices to other
- 14 judicial districts on a temporary basis in an effort to remove
- 15 any backlog of cases;
- 16 (5) to prescribe forms to be used by district justices;
- 17 (6) to make such rules and regulations as are necessary to
- 18 the efficient functioning of the office of District Justice
- 19 Administrator; and
- 20 (7) to employ such individuals as approved by the Supreme
- 21 Court to implement the provisions of this act.
- 22 ARTICLE VII
- 23 Miscellaneous Provisions
- 24 Section 701. Repealers.--(a) Specific repealers.--
- 25 (1) The act of January 7, 1952 (1951 P.L.1841, No.492),
- 26 known as the "Minor Judiciary Fee Bill."
- 27 (2) The act of December 2, 1968 (P.L.1131, No.352), known as
- 28 the "Magisterial Districts Act," in so far as it relates to
- 29 district justices and magisterial districts outside of cities
- 30 and counties of the first class.

- 1 (3) The act of February 24, 1970 (P.L.53, No.22), known as
- 2 the "Minor Judiciary Education Act," in so far as it relates to
- 3 district justices.
- 4 (b) General repealer.--Any act or part of an act
- 5 inconsistent with the provisions of this act is repealed to the
- 6 extent of the inconsistency.
- 7 Section 702. Effective Date. -- This act shall take effect
- 8 January JULY 1, 1976.

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