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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/18/13
 SPONSOR Rehm LAST UPDATED 03/11/13 HB 119/aSPAC
 SHORT TITLE Metro Court Judge Qualifications SB _____
 ANALYST Jorgensen

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SPAC Amendment

The Senate Public Affairs Committee amendment to House Bill 119 would require metropolitan court judges to reside in the district for which the judge was elected or appointed.

Synopsis of Original Bill

This interim Courts, Correction and Justice committee bill amends Section 34-8A-4 NMSA to provide that no person shall be eligible for election or appointment to the office of metropolitan judge unless the person is a member of the New Mexico bar, has been in the actual practice of law in this state for at least five years preceding assumption of office, and has resided in this state for at three years preceding the assumption of office. Under current law, there is no residency requirement, and the requirement for the practice of law in New Mexico is three years.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This bill is part of the judiciary's unified budget. Amending the Metropolitan Court eligibility statute as set forth in the proposed bill will make the language consistent with that of the constitution for Supreme Court Justices, judges of the court of appeals, and district court judges.