

Senate Engrossed House Bill
civil case assignment; judges

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

HOUSE BILL 2723

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 12, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 12-137; RELATING TO THE SUPERIOR COURT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 12, chapter 1, article 2, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 12-137, to read:

4 12-137. Civil case assignment

5 A. THE ASSIGNMENT OF A CIVIL CASE TO A SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE IN A
6 COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF MORE THAN ONE MILLION PERSONS MUST BE DONE BY
7 EITHER AUTOMATED MEANS OR A FORMULA THAT IS APPROVED BY THE SUPREME COURT
8 AND MUST BE DONE IN A BLIND MANNER. IN AN EMERGENCY MATTER OR WHEN A
9 JUDGE WHO IS ASSIGNED TO A CASE BECOMES UNAVAILABLE, THE SUPERIOR COURT
10 MUST ASSIGN A JUDGE IN A BLIND MANNER, EXCEPT THAT THE SUPERIOR COURT MAY
11 ACCOUNT FOR JUDICIAL AVAILABILITY. THE SUPERIOR COURT MAY DEVIATE FROM A
12 BLIND ASSIGNMENT PROTOCOL TO ENSURE THAT CASES ARE ASSIGNED TO APPROPRIATE
13 SPECIALTY COURTS FOR TAX, COMPLEX, COMMERCIAL AND WATER RIGHTS CASES.

14 B. A JUDGE MAY NOT SELECT A CASE FOR ASSIGNMENT TO THE JUDGE. A
15 JUDGE MAY NOT REFUSE TO ACCEPT AN ASSIGNED CASE UNLESS GOOD CAUSE EXISTS
16 OR A COURT RULE OR ETHICAL CONSIDERATION REQUIRES OR ALLOWS FOR REFUSAL.