

HOUSE BILL NO. 224

INTRODUCED BY SHOCKLEY

BY REQUEST OF THE SUPREME COURT

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5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATING TO STANDING MASTERS;  
6 REMOVING THE AUTHORITY OF DISTRICT COURTS TO SET THE COMPENSATION OF COUNTIES TO  
7 APPOINT STANDING MASTERS; ~~ALLOWING COUNTIES TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE STATE TO~~  
8 ~~PROVIDE FOR A STANDING MASTER IN A COUNTY SERVED BY THE DISTRICT COURT;~~ REMOVING THE  
9 AUTHORITY OF WATER JUDGES TO SET THE SALARY OF WATER MASTERS; REMOVING THE  
10 REQUIREMENT THAT WATER MASTERS PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT  
11 SYSTEM; ~~AMENDING SECTION 3-5-123, MCA;~~ REPEALING SECTIONS 3-5-123 AND 3-7-302,  
12 MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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16 ~~Section 1. Section 3-5-123, MCA, is amended to read:~~

17 ~~"3-5-123. Standing masters -- appointment and removal -- compensation -- qualifications. (1) With~~  
18 ~~approval of the The governing body of the county or counties OR OF A CONSOLIDATED CITY-COUNTY GOVERNMENT~~  
19 ~~served by the district court or with the approval of a consolidated city-county government, a district court may~~  
20 ~~appoint provide funding to the state district court program to allow for the appointment of one or more standing~~  
21 ~~masters within a particular county. A standing master serves at the pleasure of the district court and may be~~  
22 ~~removed by the appointing judge. The compensation to be paid to a standing master position must be set by the~~  
23 ~~appointing judge and must be paid by the counties served by the district court authorized and funded on a 2-year~~  
24 ~~basis.~~

25 ~~(2) A standing master must be admitted to practice law in Montana for at least 3 years prior to the date~~  
26 ~~of appointment and must be a member of good standing of the state bar of Montana."~~

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28 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Repealer. ~~Section~~ SECTIONS 3-5-123 AND 3-7-302, MCA, is ARE repealed.

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30 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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