

HOUSE BILL NO. 224
INTRODUCED BY SHOCKLEY
BY REQUEST OF THE SUPREME COURT

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

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

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

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

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Repealer.** Section 3-7-302, MCA, is repealed.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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