



# HOUSE BILL 547: Cumberland 12C Superior Court Districts.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Judiciary III. If favorable, re-refer to Elections and Ethics Law	<b>Date:</b>	April 18, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Rep. Szoka	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Erika Churchill
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 547 would require candidates for the office of Superior Court Judge in District 12C of Cumberland County to designate which seat among the two allocated to that district the candidate is seeking.*

**CURRENT LAW:** "The General Court of Justice shall constitute a unified judicial system for purposes of jurisdiction, operation, and administration, and shall consist of an Appellate Division, a Superior Court Division, and a District Court Division." Sec. 2 of Article IV of the North Carolina Constitution. The General Assembly is tasked with dividing the State into a convenient number of Superior Court and District Court judicial districts. The General Assembly must provide for the election of one or more Superior Court Judges for each district, and a District Court must sit in at least one place in each county. Each judge must be a resident of the district to which he or she is elected. Superior court judges serve eight-year terms; district court judges serve four-year terms. Article IV of the North Carolina Constitution.

Currently, there are 70 superior court districts with 97 elected judges and 12 special judges. There are 44 District Court districts with 270 elected judges. Four Superior Court judges are allocated to Cumberland County, with one judge each in two single-member districts (Districts 12A and 12B) and two judges in one two-member district (District 12C). G.S. 7A-41. The term of office for both judges serving in District 12C expires in 2018.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 547 would require candidates seeking office in Superior Court District 12C, which is allocated two judges both running in the same year, to specify when filing for office which judicial seat that candidate is seeking.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective with the 2018 elections.

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