

From:

To:

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Subject:

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**Magistrates – SP**

H.4457—Huggins—Civil Jurisdiction of Magistrates Courts—Judiciary (1.12.2016), On contested cal in House (2016.02.03), 2<sup>nd</sup> (2016.02.09), 3<sup>rd</sup> (2016.02.10) – Crossed over, Ref. to Judiciary

- Increases the civil jurisdiction of the magistrate courts from \$7,500 to \$25,000.
- Concerns: increased monetary jurisdiction requires more individuals to litigate before magistrates with limited expertise instead of circuit court judges. Conversely, cheaper to litigate in magistrates court which could be good for defendants.

H.4665—Tallon-- Magistrates screening – 2nd (2016.02.03), 3rd (2016.02.04) – Ref. to Judiciary

- Requires the Judicial Merit Selection Commission to screen Magistrate applicants prior to appointment.
- Concerns: restricts the Governor's appointment power, which is contrary to judicial reform more generally.

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