

**JUSTICE COURT AMENDMENTS**

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Keven J. Stratton**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies the term of office for a justice court judge.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- changes the term of office for a justice court judge from six to four years.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**78A-7-203**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 205

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **78A-7-203** is amended to read:

**78A-7-203. Term of office for justice court judge -- Retention.**

(1) The term of a justice court judge is [~~six~~] four years beginning the first Monday in January following the date of election.

(2) Upon the expiration of a justice court judge's term of office, the judge shall be subject to an unopposed retention election in accordance with the procedures set forth in



28 Section [20A-12-201](#):

29 (a) in the county or counties in which the court to which the judge is appointed is  
30 located if the judge is a county justice court judge or a municipal justice court judge in a town  
31 or city of the fourth or fifth class; or

32 (b) in the municipality in which the court to which the judge is appointed is located if  
33 the judge is a municipal justice court judge and Subsection (2)(a) does not apply.

34 (3) Before each retention election, each justice court judge shall be evaluated in  
35 accordance with the performance evaluation program established in Title 78A, Chapter 12,  
36 Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission Act.

37 (4) Notwithstanding Subsection (3), each justice court judge who is subject to a  
38 retention election in 2012, 2014, and 2016, and who is not a full-time justice court judge on  
39 July 1, 2012, shall be evaluated by the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission according  
40 to the following performance standards:

41 (a) the justice court judge shall have at least 30 annual hours of continuing legal  
42 education for each year of the justice court judge's current term;

43 (b) the justice court judge may not have more than one public reprimand issued by the  
44 Judicial Conduct Commission or the Supreme Court during the justice court judge's current  
45 term; and

46 (c) the justice court judge may not have had any cases under advisement for more than  
47 two months.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 2-25-14 4:39 PM**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**