

CHAPTER 2

TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS

2.031 APPORTIONMENT.
2.722 JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

2.724 CHIEF JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT,
DUTIES.

2.031 APPORTIONMENT.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2008]

Subd. 2. **Definition.** The terms "county," "town," "township," "city," "ward," "precinct," "census tract," "block," and "unorganized territory" when used in a description of a legislative district in section 2.444 or 2.484, mean a geographical area established as such by law and as it existed for purposes of the 2000 federal census.

History: 2009 c 86 art 1 s 1

2.722 JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

[For text of subs 1 to 3, see M.S.2008]

Subd. 4. **Determination of a judicial vacancy.** (a) When a judge of the district court dies, resigns, retires, or is removed from office, the Supreme Court, in consultation with judges and attorneys in the affected district, shall determine after receiving notice of a vacancy from the governor whether the vacant office is necessary for effective judicial administration or is necessary for adequate access to the courts. In determining whether the position is necessary for adequate access to the courts, the Supreme Court shall consider whether abolition or transfer of the position would result in a county having no chambered judge. The Supreme Court may continue the position, may order the position abolished, or may transfer the position to a judicial district where need for additional judges exists, designating the position as either a county, county/municipal or district court judgeship. The Supreme Court shall certify any vacancy to the governor, who shall fill it in the manner provided by law.

(b) If a judge of district court fails to timely file an affidavit of candidacy and filing fee or petition in lieu of a fee, the official with whom the affidavits of candidacy are required to be filed shall notify the Supreme Court that the incumbent judge is not seeking reelection. Within five days of receipt of the notice, the Supreme Court shall determine whether the judicial position is necessary for effective judicial administration or adequate access to the courts and notify the official responsible for certifying the election results of its determination. In determining whether the position is necessary for adequate access to the courts, the Supreme Court shall consider whether abolition or transfer of the position would result in a county having no chambered judge. The Supreme Court may continue the position, may order the position abolished, or may transfer the position to a judicial district where the need for additional judgeships exists. If the position is abolished or transferred, the election may not be held. If the position is transferred, the court shall also notify the governor of the transfer. Upon transfer, the position is vacant and the governor shall fill it in the manner provided by law. An order abolishing or transferring a position is effective the first Monday in the next January.

Subd. 4a. **Referee vacancy; conversion to judgeship.** When a referee of the district court dies, resigns, retires, or is voluntarily removed from the position, the chief judge of the district shall notify the Supreme Court and may petition to request that the position be converted to a judgeship. The Supreme Court shall determine whether to order the position abolished or convert the position to a judgeship in the affected or another judicial district. The Supreme Court shall certify any judicial vacancy to the governor, who shall fill it in the manner provided by law. The conversion of a referee position to a judgeship under this

subdivision shall not reduce the total number of judges and referees hearing cases in the family and juvenile courts.

[For text of subd 5, see M.S.2008]

History: 2009 c 83 art 2 s 1,2

2.724 CHIEF JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT, DUTIES.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2008]

Subd. 2. **Procedure.** To promote and secure more efficient administration of justice, the chief justice of the Supreme Court of the state shall supervise and coordinate the work of the courts of the state. The Supreme Court may provide by rule that the chief justice not be required to write opinions as a member of the Supreme Court. Its rules may further provide for it to hear and consider cases in divisions. It may by rule assign temporarily any retired justice of the Supreme Court or one judge of the Court of Appeals or district court judge at a time to act as a justice of the Supreme Court or any number of justices or retired justices of the Supreme Court to act as judges of the Court of Appeals. Upon the assignment of a Court of Appeals judge or a district court judge to act as a justice of the Supreme Court, a judge previously acting as a justice may complete unfinished duties of that position. Any number of justices may disqualify themselves from hearing and considering a case, in which event the Supreme Court may assign temporarily a retired justice of the Supreme Court, a Court of Appeals judge, or a district court judge to hear and consider the case in place of each disqualified justice.

Subd. 3. **Retired justices and judges.** (a) The chief justice of the Supreme Court may assign a retired justice of the Supreme Court to act as a justice of the Supreme Court pursuant to subdivision 2 or as a judge of any other court. The chief justice may assign a retired judge of any court to act as a judge of any court except the Supreme Court. The chief justice of the Supreme Court shall determine the pay and expenses to be received by a justice or judge acting pursuant to this paragraph.

(b) A judge who has been elected to office and who has retired as a judge in good standing and is not practicing law may also be appointed to serve as judge of any court except the Supreme Court. A retired judge acting under this paragraph will receive pay and expenses in the amount established by the Supreme Court.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.2008]

History: 2009 c 83 art 2 s 3,4