

**Report on Public Policy Position****Name of section:**

Family Law Section

**Contact person:**

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[SB 0745](#) (McManus) Courts; supreme court; supreme court election districts; create. Amends secs. 391 & 399 of [1954 PA 116](#) (MCL [168.391](#) & [168.399](#)) & adds secs. 396a & 396b.

**Date position was adopted:**

February 6, 2010

**Process used to take the ideological position:**

Position adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting.

**Number of members in the decision-making body:**

21

**Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:**

18 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

1 Abstained from vote

2 Did not vote

**Position:**

Oppose

**Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:**

SB 745 proposes to regionalize the election of Supreme Court justices. It would divide Michigan into seven equally populated Supreme Court districts (to be determined by the legislature) with each district to elect one justice. This would make each justice responsible to a narrow constituency, rather than looking out for the state as a whole. The Family Law Section believes it is especially important that our Supreme Court justices retain a statewide focus. We oppose this bill.

**The text of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report.**

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2009-SB-0745>