

Rep. Runestad offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 367.

A resolution to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Michigan District Court system.

Whereas, District courts achieved enactment in the legislature after long debates over the replacement of the justice of the peace system and the requirement that the district court judges be attorneys and full-time judges; and

Whereas, Under Michigan's Constitution, the creation of a new court requires passage by two-thirds majorities in both the Michigan House and the Michigan Senate. The Michigan District Court system was established by the passage of Public Act 154 of 1968, effective June 17, 1968, amending the Revised Judicature Act to create our state district court system; and

Whereas, The district court is often referred to as "The People's Court," as the public has more contact with the district court than with any other court in the state. The court conducts marriages in a civil ceremony. Those appearing in district court are more often representing themselves without an attorney and it has exclusive jurisdiction over all civil claims for damages up to \$25,000, including small claims, landlord-tenant disputes, land contract disputes, and civil infractions; and

Whereas, District courts conduct preliminary examinations in felony cases prior to transfer to the circuit court and handle a wide range of criminal proceedings, including most misdemeanors and offences for which the maximum possible penalty does not exceed one year in jail; and

Whereas, In its first 50 years, the Michigan District Court system has proven to be comprised of fair-minded and thoughtful jurists who have served the people of Michigan capably and admirably; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Michigan District Court system. We honor the contributions that the Michigan District Court system has made to the state of Michigan.