



S. 550 – A bill to preserve existing judgeships on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia

FLOOR SITUATION

S. 550 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) on February 12, 2007. The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on February 4, 2008. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote on March 13, 2008.

S. 550 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 1, 2008.

SUMMARY

S. 550 increases the number of Superior Court of DC associate judges from fifty-eight to sixty-one.

BACKGROUND

The Superior Court of DC was established as the trial court of general jurisdiction for DC by Congress in 1970 (P.L. 91 – 358). The Superior Court adjudicates all local trial matters, including civil, criminal, family court, probate, tax, landlord-tenant, small claims, and traffic.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates enacting S. 550 would cost about \$1 million a year for salaries and benefits of the additional judges and support staff.

[CBO cost estimate for S. 550](#)

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at (202) 226-2302.