



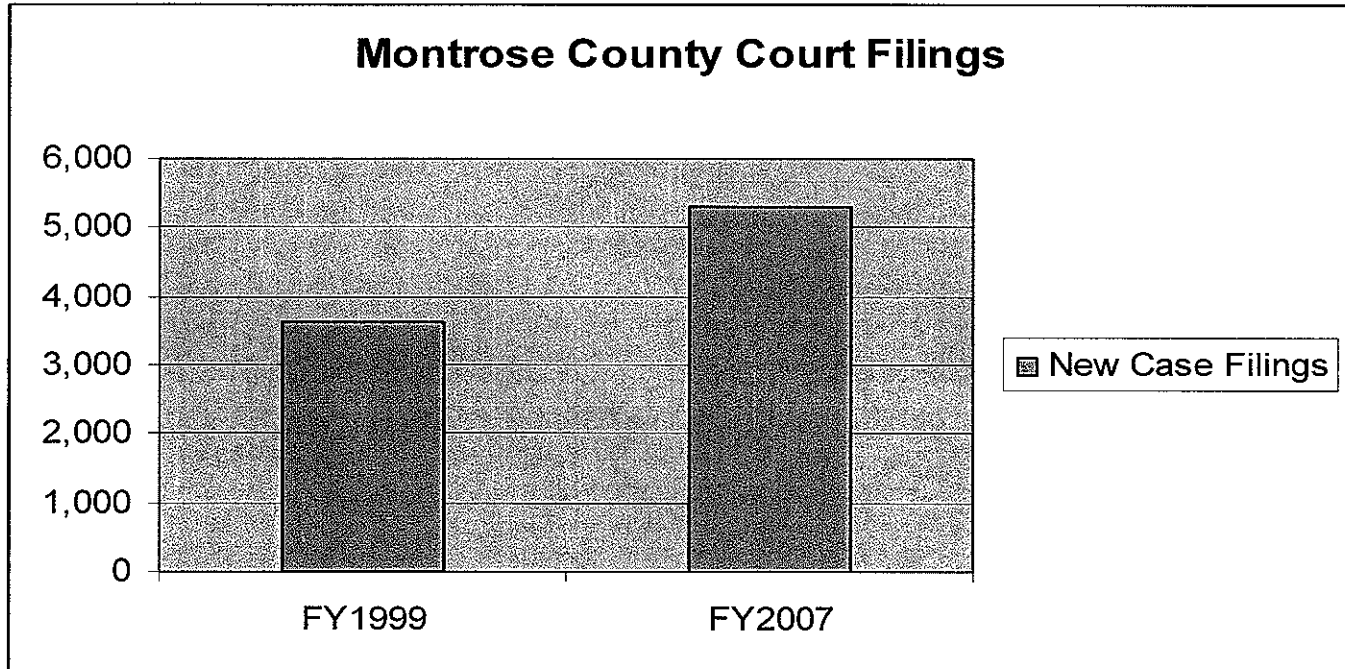
HB 09-1037

By Representative Tipton and Senator Isgar

CONCERNING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF MONTROSE COUNTY

Colorado law classifies county court judges into four categories for organizational and administrative purposes. Judges in Class A and B counties work full time and are paid accordingly. Judges in Class C and D counties work part time and are paid based on the size and complexity of their caseload. **The county judgeship based in the city of Montrose is Classified as a Class C judgeship.**

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may appoint a Class C or D judge to serve on a full time basis when their workload reaches 80% of a full time workload. The judge in Montrose County has served full time since 1999 based upon this statutorily authorized waiver. Recently, rising caseloads have driven the need for county judges beyond their current resources. New filings have increased by 47% since the Montrose County judge was first appointed full time. Current filing data indicates that the Montrose County Court requires 1.20 judge FTE to handle the size of their caseload. **The caseload in Montrose County has risen to a sustainable level that justifies reclassification to Class B (full time) status on a permanent basis.** Class B status will allow the county to be considered for supplemental magistrate staffing as caseload continues to grow.



There will be no fiscal impact to implement this change since the Montrose County judgeship is already paid a full FTE salary.

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