

LEGISLATION

The Judiciary’s legislative team brings together representatives of the Courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts to enhance the effectiveness of the Judicial Branch’s relationship with the General Assembly by serving as the main Judicial Branch contact for legislative matters and by monitoring and analyzing legislation for impact on the Judiciary. The following legislation affecting the Judicial Branch was passed during FY 2016 by the 148th session of the General Assembly:

BILL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
SB 206	Updates a general provision of the code to reflect current practice and conform with specific statutory language applicable to the appointment of a vacant office for a commissioner in the Superior Court or the Court of Common Pleas.
SB 210	Permits the imposition of work referral by the Justice of the Peace Court for civil violations in lieu of payment of fees and fines under Title 21.
SB 212	Permits the Superior Court to temporarily assign duties to a retired commissioner, as is already done in the Court of Common Pleas and Family Court.
HB 249	Allows for recognized appraisal standards to be used to set the fair market value of seized goods at auction in the Justice of the Peace Court.
HB 255	Adds violations of a county or municipal code to the list of offenses that are eligible for probation before judgment.
HB 303	Changes the start of a Public Guardian’s term of office to the date of swearing in instead of the date of appointment in order to allow for a transition period when there is a change in office holders.
HB 313	Permits use of unsworn declarations made under penalty of perjury in lieu of sworn declarations. This change recognizes the increasing use of electronic filing and will permit self-represented litigants greater access to justice while continuing to ensure that litigants confirm the veracity of their pleadings.
SCR 75	Resolution recognizing the 50 th anniversary of the Justice of the Peace Court joining the Delaware State Court system.