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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to the judiciary; amending s.  
26.031, F.S.; increasing the number of judges  
in specified judicial circuits; amending s.  
34.022, F.S.; increasing the number of judges  
in specified county courts; providing an  
effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 26.031, Florida Statutes, 1996  
Supplement, is amended to read:

26.031 Judicial circuits; number of judges.--The  
number of circuit judges in each circuit shall be as follows:

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT	TOTAL
(1) First.....	19
(2) Second.....	<u>12</u> <del>11</del>
(3) Third.....	5
(4) Fourth.....	<u>29</u> <del>28</del>
(5) Fifth.....	<u>20</u> <del>18</del>
(6) Sixth.....	37
(7) Seventh.....	<u>21</u> <del>20</del>
(8) Eighth.....	10
(9) Ninth.....	<u>33</u> <del>32</del>
(10) Tenth.....	18
(11) Eleventh.....	70
(12) Twelfth.....	17
(13) Thirteenth.....	33
(14) Fourteenth.....	9
(15) Fifteenth.....	31

**CODING:**Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1 (16) Sixteenth..... 4  
 2 (17) Seventeenth.....4645  
 3 (18) Eighteenth.....21  
 4 (19) Nineteenth.....13  
 5 (20) Twentieth.....20  
 6 Section 2. Section 34.022, Florida Statutes, 1996  
 7 Supplement, is amended to read:  
 8 34.022 Number of county court judges for each  
 9 county.--The number of county court judges in each county  
 10 shall be as follows:  
 11  
 12 COUNTY TOTAL  
 13 (1) Alachua.....5  
 14 (2) Baker.....1  
 15 (3) Bay.....3  
 16 (4) Bradford.....1  
 17 (5) Brevard.....7  
 18 (6) Broward.....2524  
 19 (7) Calhoun.....1  
 20 (8) Charlotte.....2  
 21 (9) Citrus.....1  
 22 (10) Clay.....2  
 23 (11) Collier.....3  
 24 (12) Columbia.....1  
 25 (13) Dade.....4140  
 26 (14) DeSoto.....1  
 27 (15) Dixie.....1  
 28 (16) Duval.....13  
 29 (17) Escambia.....5  
 30 (18) Flagler.....1  
 31 (19) Franklin.....1

1	(20)	Gadsden.....	1
2	(21)	Gilchrist.....	1
3	(22)	Glades.....	1
4	(23)	Gulf.....	1
5	(24)	Hamilton.....	1
6	(25)	Hardee.....	1
7	(26)	Hendry.....	1
8	(27)	Hernando.....	1
9	(28)	Highlands.....	1
10	(29)	Hillsborough.....	13
11	(30)	Holmes.....	1
12	(31)	Indian River.....	2
13	(32)	Jackson.....	1
14	(33)	Jefferson.....	1
15	(34)	Lafayette.....	1
16	(35)	Lake.....	2
17	(36)	Lee.....	6
18	(37)	Leon.....	4
19	(38)	Levy.....	1
20	(39)	Liberty.....	1
21	(40)	Madison.....	1
22	(41)	Manatee.....	3
23	(42)	Marion.....	3
24	(43)	Martin.....	2
25	(44)	Monroe.....	4
26	(45)	Nassau.....	1
27	(46)	Okaloosa.....	2
28	(47)	Okeechobee.....	1
29	(48)	Orange.....	<del>14</del> <u>13</u>
30	(49)	Osceola.....	3
31	(50)	Palm Beach.....	17

1 (51) Pasco.....3  
2 (52) Pinellas.....13  
3 (53) Polk.....6  
4 (54) Putnam.....1  
5 (55) St. Johns.....2  
6 (56) St. Lucie.....3  
7 (57) Santa Rosa.....2  
8 (58) Sarasota.....4  
9 (59) Seminole.....5  
10 (60) Sumter.....1  
11 (61) Suwannee.....1  
12 (62) Taylor.....1  
13 (63) Union.....1  
14 (64) Volusia.....9  
15 (65) Wakulla.....1  
16 (66) Walton.....1  
17 (67) Washington.....1

18 Section 3. The Office of Program Policy and  
19 Governmental Accountability is directed to study, through its  
20 staff or by contract with a vendor, the judicial efficiency  
21 and cost effectiveness of Florida's two-tiered trial court  
22 system and the jurisdictional distinctions between county and  
23 circuit courts. Alternatives, such as full - or part-time  
24 magistrates for small claims and civil traffic infractions,  
25 changes in jurisdiction, and a unified trial court system,  
26 should be included in the study. This study should also  
27 include an examination of the state case reporting system  
28 currently used by the Florida Supreme Court to determine  
29 judicial workload.

30 (2) The study must be completed and submitted to the  
31 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives, the Chief Justice, and the Governor no later  
2 than January 31, 1998.

3           Section 4. The judges filling new offices created by  
4 this act shall be appointed by the Governor and shall take  
5 office on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January  
6 1998.

7           Section 5. Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall take  
8 effect on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January  
9 1998, and all remaining sections shall take effect upon  
10 becoming a law.

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