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

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

ENROLLED

1997 Legislature

HB 1753, First Engrossed

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.....	<u>14</u> 13
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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