Amendment No. $\underline{1}$ (for drafter's use only)

	CHAMBER ACTION Senate House
1	\vdots
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5	ORIGINAL STAMP BELOW
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11	Representative(s) Warner offered the following:
12	
13	Amendment (with title amendment)
14	Remove from the bill: Everything after the enacting clause
15	
16	and insert in lieu thereof:
17	Section 1. Section 26.031, Florida Statutes, as
18	amended by section 1 of chapter 97-257, Laws of Florida, is
19	amended to read:
20	26.031 Judicial circuits; number of judgesThe
21	number of circuit judges in each circuit shall be as follows:
22	
23	JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TOTAL
24	(1) First19
25	(2) Second12
26	(3) Third <u>6</u> 5
27	(4) Fourth <u>30</u> 29
28	(5) Fifth20
29	(6) Sixth <u>39</u> 37
30	(7) Seventh
31	(8) Eighth

Bill No. CS for SB 2158

Amendment No. $\underline{1}$ (for drafter's use only)

1	(9) Ninth
2	(10) Tenth
3	(11) Eleventh70
4	(12) Twelfth
5	(13) Thirteenth <u>34</u> 33
6	(14) Fourteenth9
7	(15) Fifteenth31
8	(16) Sixteenth 4
9	(17) Seventeenth <u>48</u> 46
10	(18) Eighteenth <u>22</u> 21
11	(19) Nineteenth
12	(20) Twentieth
13	Section 2. Section 34.022, Florida Statutes, as
14	amended by section 2 of chapter 97-257, Laws of Florida, is
15	amended to read:
16	34.022 Number of county court judges for each
17	countyThe number of county court judges in each county
18	shall be as follows:
19	
20	COUNTY
21	(1) Alachua5
22	(2) Baker1
23	(3) Bay3
24	(4) Bradford1
25	(5) Brevard7
26	(6) Broward
27	(7) Calhoun1
28	(8) Charlotte2
29	(9) Citrus1
30	(10) Clay2
31	(11) Collier

HOUSE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS for SB 2158

Amendment No. $\underline{1}$ (for drafter's use only)

	1	
1	(12)	Columbia1
2	(13)	Dade41
3	(14)	DeSoto1
4	(15)	Dixie1
5	(16)	Duval
6	(17)	Escambia5
7	(18)	Flagler1
8	(19)	Franklin1
9	(20)	Gadsden1
10	(21)	Gilchrist1
11	(22)	Glades1
12	(23)	Gulf1
13	(24)	Hamilton1
14	(25)	Hardee1
15	(26)	Hendry1
16	(27)	Hernando1
17	(28)	Highlands1
18	(29)	Hillsborough <u>14</u> 13
19	(30)	Holmes1
20	(31)	Indian River2
21	(32)	Jackson1
22	(33)	Jefferson1
23	(34)	Lafayette1
24	(35)	Lake2
25	(36)	Lee6
26	(37)	Leon <u>5</u> 4
27	(38)	Levy1
28	(39)	Liberty1
29	(40)	Madison1
30	(41)	Manatee3
31	(42)	Marion 3

Bill No. CS for SB 2158

Amendment No. $\underline{1}$ (for drafter's use only)

	•	
1	(43)	Martin2
2	(44)	Monroe4
3	(45)	Nassau1
4	(46)	Okaloosa2
5	(47)	Okeechobee1
6	(48)	Orange14
7	(49)	Osceola3
8	(50)	Palm Beach17
9	(51)	Pasco3
10	(52)	Pinellas13
11	(53)	Polk <u>7</u> 6
12	(54)	Putnam1
13	(55)	St. Johns2
14	(56)	St. Lucie3
15	(57)	Santa Rosa2
16	(58)	Sarasota4
17	(59)	Seminole5
18	(60)	Sumter1
19	(61)	Suwannee1
20	(62)	Taylor1
21	(63)	Union1
22	(64)	Volusia9
23	(65)	Wakulla1
24	(66)	Walton1
25	(67)	Washington1
26	Secti	on 3. The judges filling new offices created by
27	this act sha	ll be appointed and shall take office April 1,
28	<u>1999.</u>	
29	Secti	on 4. Section 318.32, Florida Statutes, is
30	amended to r	ead:
31	318.3	2 Jurisdiction; limitations

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- (1) Hearing officers shall be empowered to accept pleas from and decide the guilt or innocence of any person, adult or juvenile, charged with any civil traffic infraction and shall be empowered to adjudicate or withhold adjudication of guilt in the same manner as a county court judge under the statutes, rules, and procedures presently existing or as subsequently amended, except that hearing officers shall not:
- (a) Have the power to hold a defendant in contempt of court, but shall be permitted to file a motion for order of contempt with the appropriate state trial court judge;
- (b) Hear a case involving an accident resulting in injury or death; or
- (c) Hear a criminal traffic offense case or a case involving a civil traffic infraction issued in conjunction with a criminal traffic offense.
- (2) This section does not prohibit a county court judge from exercising concurrent jurisdiction with a civil traffic hearing officer.
- (3) Upon the request of the defendant contained in a Notice of Appearance or a written plea, the case shall be assigned to a county court judge regularly assigned to hear traffic matters.

Section 5. Section 318.37, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

318.37 Funding.--In any county electing to establish a Civil Traffic Infraction Hearing Officer Program under ss.
318.30-318.38 the court shall develop a plan for its implementation and shall submit the plan to the Office of the State Courts Administrator. Subject to the availability of appropriations, the state shall provide annual funds on a 50/50 matching basis to establish the Civil Traffic Infraction

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Hearing Officer Program in any county having three or more county judges. The maximum annual matching grant for any county participating in the program shall be determined by dividing the number of county judges in the county by five and multiplying the result by \$25,000. Funds for the program are to be used for hearing officer salaries, which may not exceed \$50 per hour, and other necessary expenses such as hearing officer training, office rental, furniture, and administrative staff salaries. The state matching funds shall be paid to the county as a grant-in-aid in accordance with policies necessary to implement this section established by the Office of the State Courts Administrator. Any county electing to establish such a program shall provide such other the funds as are necessary to operate the program. Section 6. From the unexpended funds provided in the Conference Report on House Bill 4201 for establishing new judgeships, up to \$725,000 may be used as twelve months funding to implement the provisions of section 5 of this act. Section 7. From the unexpended funds provided in the Conference Report on House Bill 4201 for establishing new judgeships, up to \$75,000 may be used to contract for the development of a Delphi-based case load weighting system to determine the optimum case loads for circuit and county judges and, in conjunction with other factors, to determine the need for additional circuit and county court judges. The judicial branch shall consult with the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability on defining the scope of work, selecting a consultant, and choosing a methodology for developing case load weights and determining available judge time. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall issue a report not later than

05/01/98

05:21 pm

February 1, 1999 on the development of case load weights and 1 2 their use in the judicial certification process. 3 Section 8. Section 40.50, Florida Statutes, is 4 created to read: 5 40.50 Jury duty and instructions in civil cases .--6 (1) In any civil action immediately after the jury is 7 sworn, the court shall instruct the jury concerning its duties, its conduct, the order of proceedings, the procedure 8 for submitting written questions of witnesses, and the 9 10 elementary legal principles that will govern the proceeding as 11 provided in this section. 12 (2) In any case in which the court determines that the 13 trial could exceed 5 days, the court shall instruct that the 14 jurors may take notes regarding the evidence and keep the 15 notes for the purpose of refreshing their memory for use during recesses and deliberations. The court may provide 16 17 materials suitable for this purpose. The confidentiality of 18 the notes should be emphasized to the jurors. After the jury has rendered its verdict, the notes shall be collected by the 19 bailiff or clerk who shall promptly destroy them. 20 (3) The court shall permit jurors to submit to the 21 court written questions directed to witnesses or to the court. 22 Opportunity shall be given to counsel to object to such 23 24 questions out of the presence of the jury. The court may, as 25 appropriate, limit the submission of questions to witnesses. The court shall instruct the jury that any 26 27 questions directed to witnesses or the court must be in writing, unsigned, and given to the bailiff. If the court 28 29 determines that the juror's question calls for admissible

court's discretion. Such question may be answered by

evidence, the question may be asked by court or counsel in the

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stipulation or other appropriate means, including, but not limited to, additional testimony upon such terms and limitations as the court prescribes. If the court determines that the juror's question calls for inadmissible evidence, the question shall not be read or answered. If a juror's question is rejected, the jury should be told that trial rules do not permit some questions to be asked and that the jurors should not attach any significance to the failure of having their question asked.

instructions to the jury before closing arguments of counsel instead of after, in order to enhance jurors' ability to apply the applicable law to the facts. In that event, the court may wish to withhold giving the necessary procedural and housekeeping instructions until after closing arguments.

Section 9. Section 44.1051, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

44.1051 Voluntary trial resolution. --

- (1) Two or more parties who are involved in a civil dispute may agree in writing to submit the controversy to voluntary trial resolution in lieu of litigation of the issues involved, prior to or after a lawsuit has been filed, provided that no constitutional issue is involved.
- (2) If the parties have entered into an agreement that provides for a method for appointment of a member of The Florida Bar in good standing for more than 5 years to act as trial resolution judge, the court shall proceed with the appointment as prescribed.
- (3) The trial resolution judge shall be compensated by the parties according to their agreement.
 - (4) Within 10 days after the submission of the request

for binding voluntary trial resolution, the court shall provide for the appointment of the trial resolution judge.

Once appointed, the trial resolution judge shall notify the parties of the time and place for the hearing.

- (5) Application for voluntary trial resolution shall be filed and fees paid to the clerk of the court as if for complaints initiating civil actions. The clerk of the court shall handle and account for these matters in all respects as if they were civil actions except that the clerk of the court shall keep separate the records of the applications for voluntary binding trial resolution from all other civil actions.
- (6) Filing of the application for binding voluntary trial resolution will toll the running of the applicable statutes of limitation.
- (7) The appointed trial resolution judge shall have such power to administer oaths or affirmations and to conduct the proceedings as the rules of court provide. At the request of any party, the trial resolution judge shall issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and for the production of books, records, documents, and other evidence and may apply to the court for orders compelling attendance and production.

 Subpoenas shall be served and shall be enforceable as provided by law.
- (8) The hearing shall be conducted by the trial resolution judge, who may determine any question and render a final decision.
- (9) The Florida Evidence Code shall apply to all proceedings under this section.
- (10) Any party may enforce a final decision rendered in a voluntary trial by filing a petition for final judgment

in the circuit court in the circuit in which the voluntary 1 trial took place. Upon entry of final judgment by the circuit 2 3 court an appeal may be taken to the appropriate appellate 4 court. The "harmless error doctrine" shall apply in all appeals. No further review shall be permitted unless a 5 6 constitutional issue is raised. Factual findings determined in 7 the voluntary trial shall not be subject to appeal. (11) If no appeal is taken within the time provided by 8 rules of the Supreme Court, the decision shall be referred to 9 10 the presiding court judge in the case, or, if one has not been assigned, to the chief judge of the circuit for assignment to 11 12 a circuit judge, who shall enter such orders and judgments as 13 are required to carry out the terms of decision, which orders shall be enforceable by the contempt powers of the court and 14 15 for which judgment executions shall issue on request of a 16 party. 17 (12) This section does not apply to any dispute involving child custody, visitation, or child support, or to 18 any dispute that involves the rights of a person who is not a 19 party to the voluntary trial resolution. 20

Section 10. Section 57.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

57.105 Attorney's fee; sanctions for raising unfounded claims or defenses; damages for delay of litigation.--

(1) Upon the court's initiative or motion of any party, the court shall award a reasonable attorney's fee to be paid to the prevailing party in equal amounts by the losing party and the losing party's attorney on any claim or defense in a in any civil proceeding or action in which the court finds that the losing party or the losing party's attorney knew or should have known that a claim or defense when

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presented to the court:

- (a) Was not supported by the material facts necessary to establish the claim or defense; or
- (b) Would not be supported by the application of then-existing law to those material facts.there was a complete absence of a justiciable issue of either law or fact raised by the complaint or defense of the losing party; provided,

However, that the losing party's attorney is not personally responsible if he or she has acted in good faith, based on the representations of his or her client as to the existence of those material facts. If the court awards attorney's fees to a claimant pursuant to this subsection finds that there was a complete absence of a justiciable issue of either law or fact raised by the defense, the court shall also award prejudgment interest.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the court determines that the claim or defense was presented to the court as a good-faith attempt to change then-existing law as it applied to the material facts.
- (3) At any time in any civil proceeding or action in which the moving party proves by a preponderance of the evidence that any action taken by the opposing party, including, but not limited to, the filing of any pleading or part thereof, the assertion of or response to any discovery demand, the assertion of any claim or defense, or the response to any request by any other party, was taken primarily for the purpose of unreasonable delay, the court shall award damages to the moving party for the time necessitated by the conduct in question.

1	(4) The court also may impose such additional
2	sanctions or other remedies as are just and warranted under
3	the circumstances of the particular case, including, but not
4	limited to, contempt of court, award of taxable costs,
5	striking of a claim or defense, or dismissal of the pleading.
6	$\frac{(5)}{(2)}$ If a contract contains a provision allowing
7	attorney's fees to a party when he or she is required to take
8	any action to enforce the contract, the court may also allow
9	reasonable attorney's fees to the other party when that party
10	prevails in any action, whether as plaintiff or defendant,
11	with respect to the contract. This subsection applies to any
12	contract entered into on or after October 1, 1988. This act
13	shall take effect October 1, 1988, and shall apply to
14	contracts entered into on said date or thereafter.
15	Section 11. Subsections (3), (5), and (7) of section
16	768.79, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
17	768.79 Offer of judgment and demand for judgment
18	(3) The offer shall be served upon the party to whom
19	it is made, but it shall not be filed unless it is accepted or
20	unless filing is necessary to enforce the provisions of this
21	section. In any case involving multiple party plaintiffs or
22	multiple party defendants, an offer shall specify its
23	applicability to each party and may specify any conditions
24	thereof. Each individual party may thereafter accept or reject
25	the offer as the offer applies to such party.
26	(5) An offer may be withdrawn in writing which is
27	served before the date a written acceptance is filed. Once
28	withdrawn, an offer is void. A subsequent offer to a party
29	shall have the effect of voiding any previous offer to that
30	party.
31	(7)(a) Prior to awarding costs and fees nursuant to

(7)(a) Prior to awarding costs and fees pursuant to

this section the court shall determine whether the offer was reasonable under the circumstances known at the time the offer was made. If a party is entitled to costs and fees pursuant to the provisions of this section, the court may, in its discretion, determine that an offer was not made in good faith. In such case, the court may disallow an award of costs and attorney's fees.

- (b) When determining the reasonableness of an award of attorney's fees pursuant to this section, the court shall consider, along with all other relevant criteria, the following additional factors:
- 1. The then's apparent merit or lack's of merit in the claim.
- 2. The number and nature of offers made by the parties.
- 3. The closeness of questions of fact and law at issue.
- 4. Whether the person making the offer had unreasonable refused to furnish information necessary to evaluate the reasonableness of such offer.
- 5. Whether the suit was in the nature of a test case presenting questions of far-reaching's importance affecting nonparties.
- 6. The amount of the additional delay cost and expense that the person making the offer reasonable would be expected to incur if the litigation should be prolonged.
- Section 12. Section 57.071, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 57.071 Costs; what taxable.--
- 30 (1) If costs are awarded to any party the following 31 shall also be allowed:

(a) (1) The reasonable premiums or expenses paid on all 1 2 bonds or other security furnished by such party. 3 (b) (b) (2) The expense of the court reporter for per diem, 4 transcribing proceedings and depositions, including opening 5 statements and arguments by counsel. (c) Any sales or use tax due on legal services 6 7 provided to such party, notwithstanding any other provision of 8 law to the contrary. (2) Expert witness fees shall not be awarded as 9 10 taxable costs unless: 11 (a) The party retaining the expert witness files a 12 written notice with the court and with each opposing party 13 within 30 days after the entry of an order setting the trial date, which notice shall specify the expertise and experience 14 15 of the expert, the rate of compensation of the expert witness, the subject matters or issues on which the expert is expected 16 17 to render an opinion, and an estimate of the overall fees of the expert witness, including the fee for trial testimony. If 18 19 the rate of compensation is hourly, the estimated overall fee may be stated in terms of estimated hours; and 20 The party retaining the expert witness furnishes 21 22 each opposing party with a written report signed by the expert witness which summarizes the expert witness's opinions and the 23 24 factual basis of the opinions, including documentary evidence 25 and the authorities relied upon in reaching the opinions. Such report shall be filed at least 21 days prior to discovery 26 27 cut-off, or as otherwise determined by the court. Section 13. Section 768.77, Florida Statutes, is 28

(1) In any action to which this part applies in which

05/01/98 05:21 pm

768.77 Itemized verdict.--

amended to read:

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the trier of fact determines that liability exists on the part 1 of the defendant, the trier of fact shall, as a part of the 2 3 verdict, itemize the amounts to be awarded to the claimant 4 into the following categories of damages: 5 (1)(a) Amounts intended to compensate the claimant for 6 economic losses; 7 (2) (b) Amounts intended to compensate the claimant for 8 noneconomic losses; and 9 (3)(c) Amounts awarded to the claimant for punitive 10 damages, if applicable. 11 (2) Each category of damages, other than punitive 12 damages, shall be further itemized into amounts intended to 13 compensate for losses which have been incurred prior to the 14 verdict and into amounts intended to compensate for losses to 15 be incurred in the future. Future damages itemized under paragraph (1)(a) shall be computed before and after reduction 16 17 to present value. Damages itemized under paragraph (1)(b) or paragraph (1)(c) shall not be reduced to present value. In 18 19 itemizing amounts intended to compensate for future losses, 20 the trier of fact shall set forth the period of years over 21 which such amounts are intended to provide compensation. 22 Section 14. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 768.78, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 23 24 768.78 Alternative methods of payment of damage 25 awards.--(1)(a) In any action to which this part applies in 26 27 which the court determines that trier of fact makes an award to compensate the claimant includes for future economic losses 28 29 which exceed \$250,000, payment of amounts intended to 30 compensate the claimant for these losses shall be made by one of the following means, unless an alternative method of

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payment of damages is provided in this section: 1 2 The defendant may make a lump-sum payment for all 3 damages so assessed, with future economic losses and expenses 4 reduced to present value; or 5 Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the 6 court shall, at the request of either party, unless the court determines that manifest injustice would result to any party, enter a judgment ordering future economic damages, as itemized 8 pursuant to s. 768.77(1) (a), in excess of \$250,000 to be paid 9 10 in whole or in part by periodic payments rather than by a 11 lump-sum payment. 12 Section 15. Subsection (22) of section 90.803, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 13 90.803 Hearsay exceptions; availability of declarant 14 15 immaterial. -- The provision of s. 90.802 to the contrary notwithstanding, the following are not inadmissible as 16 17 evidence, even though the declarant is available as a witness: (22) FORMER TESTIMONY. -- Former testimony given by the 18 declarant which testimony was given as a witness at another 19 hearing of the same or a different proceeding, or in a 20 deposition taken in compliance with law in the course of the 21 same or another proceeding, if the party against whom the 22 testimony is now offered, or, in a civil action or proceeding, 23 24 a predecessor in interest, or a person with a similar 25 interest, had an opportunity and similar motive to develop the testimony by direct, cross, or redirect examination, provided, 26 27 however, the court finds that the testimony is not inadmissible pursuant to s. 90.402 or s. 90.403 at a civil 28 29 trial, when used in a retrial of said trial involving

05/01/98

05:21 pm

If any provision of this act or the

Section 16.

identical parties and the same facts.

application thereof to any person or circumstance is held 1 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or 2 3 applications of the act which can be given effect without the 4 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared severable. 5 Section 17. This act shall take effect on January 6 7 15, 1999, except that this section and sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 of this act shall take 9 effect upon becoming a law. 10 11 12 ======== T T T T E A M E N D M E N T ======== And the title is amended as follows: 13 14 On page 1, lines 1 through 20 remove from the title of the bill: 15 All of said lines. 16 17 18 insert: An act relating to the judiciary; amending s. 19 26.031, F.S.; increasing the number of judges 20 for specified judicial circuits; amending s. 21 34.022, F.S.; increasing the number of judges 22 for specified county courts; providing for the 23 24 filling of vacancies occurring as a result of the creation of judicial offices; amending s. 25 318.32, F.S.; modifying jurisdiction of hearing 26 officers; amending s. 318.37, F.S.; providing 27 funds to establish the Civil Traffic Infraction 28 Hearing Officer Program; providing for use of 29 30 unexpended funds provided in the Conference Report on House Bill 4201 for new judgeships; 31

Amendment No. 1 (for drafter's use only)

creating s. 40.50, F.S.; providing for jury 1 2 duty and instructions in civil cases; creating 3 s. 44.1051, F.S.; providing for voluntary trial 4 resolution by agreement of two or more parties; amending s. 57.105, F.S.; providing for 5 sanctions for raising unfounded claims or 6 7 defenses; providing for damages for delay of litigation; providing for additional sanctions 8 or other remedies; providing an effective date 9 10 for applicability; amending s. 768.79, F.S.; modifying provisions on offers of judgment and 11 12 demands for judgment; amending s. 57.071, F.S.; 13 modifying provisions on taxable costs; amending s. 768.77, F.S.; removing certain provisions 14 15 relating to itemized verdicts; amending s. 768.78, F.S.; providing for alternative methods 16 17 of payment of damage awards in actions in which the court determines that an award includes 18 future economic losses exceeding a specified 19 amount; amending s. 90.803, F.S.; providing 20 more specificity regarding former testimony; 21 providing for severability; providing an 22 effective date. 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

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05:21 pm