

By the Committee on Judiciary and Senator Klein

308-1885-98

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to juries; amending s. 40.015, F.S.; providing a method for establishing jury districts, boundaries; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 40.015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

40.015 Juries; counties exceeding 50,000.--

(1) In any county having a population exceeding 50,000 according to the last preceding decennial census and one or more locations in addition to the county seat at which the county or circuit court sits and holds jury trials, the chief judge, with the approval of a majority of the county commissioners ~~circuit court judges of the circuit~~, is authorized to create a jury district for each courthouse location, from which jury lists shall be selected in the manner presently provided by law. The creation of a jury district under this section may be initiated by either the chief judge or a majority of the county commissioners.

(2) In determining the boundaries of a jury district to serve the court located within the district, the chief judge or the board of county commissioners shall seek to avoid any exclusion of any cognizable group. Each jury district shall include at least 6,000 registered voters.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
Senate Bill 552

The Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 552 provides that, in counties with populations larger than 50,000, the chief judge of each circuit may create jury districts with the approval of a majority of the county commissioners, and either the chief judge or the county commissioners may initiate the process.