1   A bill to be entitled
2   An act relating to the judiciary; amending s.
3   26.031, F.S.; increasing the number of judges
4   in specified judicial circuits; providing for
5   election or appointment by the Governor;
6   providing an effective date.
7
8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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10   Section 1.   Section 26.031, Florida Statutes, is
11   amended to read:
12   26.031   Judicial circuits; number of judges.--The
13   number of circuit judges in each circuit shall be as follows:
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15   JUDICIAL CIRCUIT   TOTAL
16   (1)   First..21
17   (2)   Second...15
18   (3)   Third.. 6
19   (4)   Fourth...31
20   (5)   Fifth.......................................25 23
21   (6)   Sixth.......................................41 40
22   (7)   Seventh.....................................24 23
23   (8)   Eighth......................................12 11
24   (9)   Ninth.......................................38 36
25   (10) Tenth.......................................22 20
26   (11) Eleventh....................................74 72
27   (12) Twelfth.....................................19 18
28   (13) Thirteenth..................................37 36
29   (14) Fourteenth.................................... 9
30   (15) Fifteenth...................................34 33
31   (16) Sixteenth..................................... 4

                                1

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

5   Section 2. <u>(1) The judicial offices created by this

6   act for the sixth, seventh, eighth, one in the ninth, one in

7   the tenth, twelfth, thirteenth, fifteenth, and one in the

8   seventeenth judicial circuits shall be filled by election in

9   2002 pursuant to chapter 105, Florida Statutes. Candidates for

10 those judicial offices shall qualify as provided in chapter

11 105, Florida Statutes, no earlier than noon on July 22, 2002,

12 and no later than noon on July 26, 2002.

13   (2) The judicial offices created by this act for the

14 fifth, one in the ninth, one in the tenth, two in the

15 eleventh, one in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and twentieth

16 judicial circuits shall be filled through appointment by the

17 Governor. Judges appointed as provided in this subsection

18 shall take office for a term beginning on May 1, 2003.</u>

19   Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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