

By Representative Goodlette

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:

15 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT	TOTAL
16           (1) First.....	21
17           (2) Second.....	15
18           (3) Third.....	6
19           (4) Fourth.....	31
20           (5) Fifth.....	<u>25</u> <del>23</del>
21           (6) Sixth.....	<u>41</u> <del>40</del>
22           (7) Seventh.....	<u>24</u> <del>23</del>
23           (8) Eighth.....	<u>12</u> <del>11</del>
24           (9) Ninth.....	<u>38</u> <del>36</del>
25           (10) Tenth.....	<u>22</u> <del>20</del>
26           (11) Eleventh.....	<u>74</u> <del>72</del>
27           (12) Twelfth.....	<u>19</u> <del>18</del>
28           (13) Thirteenth.....	<u>37</u> <del>36</del>
29           (14) Fourteenth.....	9
30           (15) Fifteenth.....	<u>34</u> <del>33</del>
31           (16) Sixteenth.....	4

- 1           (17) Seventeenth.....53 ~~51~~
- 2           (18) Eighteenth.....24 ~~23~~
- 3           (19) Nineteenth.....15
- 4           (20) Twentieth.....23 ~~22~~

5           Section 2. (1) The judicial offices created by this  
6 act for the fifth, sixth, seventh, tenth, twelfth, thirteenth,  
7 and twentieth judicial circuits shall be filled by election in  
8 2002 pursuant to chapter 105, Florida Statutes. Candidates for  
9 those judicial offices shall qualify as provided in chapter  
10 105, Florida Statutes, no earlier than noon on July 22, 2002,  
11 and no later than noon on July 26, 2002. Judges elected to  
12 office as provided in this subsection shall take office for a  
13 term beginning March 1, 2003, and expiring on January 6, 2009.  
14 For purposes of these judicial offices filled by election, a  
15 vacancy does not occur until March 1, 2003.

16           (2) The judicial offices created by this act for the  
17 eighth, ninth, eleventh, fifteenth, seventeenth, and  
18 eighteenth judicial circuits shall be filled through  
19 appointment by the Governor. Judges appointed as provided in  
20 this subsection shall take office for a term beginning on  
21 March 1, 2003.

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

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25           LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

26           Increases the number of judges for specified judicial  
27           circuits. Provides for the election or appointment of  
28           such judges. See bill for details.

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