

By Senator Crist

12-305A-06

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to judges; amending s. 26.031,

3 F.S.; revising the number of circuit court

4 judges in certain circuits; amending s. 34.022,

5 F.S.; revising the number of county court

6 judges in certain counties; amending s. 35.06,

7 F.S.; revising the number of district court

8 judges in certain district courts of appeal;

9 providing for the election of new circuit and

10 county court judges created by the act in the

11 2006 general election; providing legislative

12 findings; providing that the circuit and county

13 court judicial offices created by the act

14 constitute vacancies in office for purposes of

15 qualifying for the 2006 general election;

16 providing an appropriation and authorizing

17 positions; providing effective dates.

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

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21 Section 1. Effective July 1, 2006, section 26.031,

22 Florida Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 2005-150,

23 Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

24 26.031 Judicial circuits; number of judges.--The

25 number of circuit judges in each circuit shall be as follows:

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27 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT	TOTAL
28 (1) First.....	<u>24</u> <del>22</del>
29 (2) Second.....	<u>17</u> <del>16</del>
30 (3) Third.....	7
31 (4) Fourth.....	<u>33</u> <del>32</del>

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

1	(5) Fifth.....	<u>32</u> <del>28</del>
2	(6) Sixth.....	<u>46</u> <del>44</del>
3	(7) Seventh.....	<u>28</u> <del>26</del>
4	(8) Eighth.....	13
5	(9) Ninth.....	<u>43</u> <del>40</del>
6	(10) Tenth.....	<u>29</u> <del>26</del>
7	(11) Eleventh.....	<u>81</u> <del>77</del>
8	(12) Twelfth.....	19
9	(13) Thirteenth.....	<u>43</u> <del>41</del>
10	(14) Fourteenth.....	10
11	(15) Fifteenth.....	35
12	(16) Sixteenth.....	4
13	(17) Seventeenth.....	<u>59</u> <del>56</del>
14	(18) Eighteenth.....	<u>26</u> <del>25</del>
15	(19) Nineteenth.....	<u>19</u> <del>18</del>
16	(20) Twentieth.....	<u>26</u> <del>23</del>

17 Section 2. Effective July 1, 2006, section 34.022,  
18 Florida Statutes, as amended by section 4 of chapter 2005-150,  
19 Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

20 34.022 Number of county court judges for each  
21 county.--The number of county court judges in each county  
22 shall be as follows:

24	COUNTY	TOTAL
25	(1) Alachua.....	5
26	(2) Baker.....	1
27	(3) Bay.....	4
28	(4) Bradford.....	1
29	(5) Brevard.....	<u>12</u> <del>9</del>
30	(6) Broward.....	<u>32</u> <del>28</del>
31	(7) Calhoun.....	1

1	(8) Charlotte.....	2
2	(9) Citrus.....	1
3	(10) Clay.....	2
4	(11) Collier.....	<u>5</u> <del>3</del>
5	(12) Columbia.....	1
6	(13) DeSoto.....	1
7	(14) Dixie.....	1
8	(15) Duval.....	16
9	(16) Escambia.....	5
10	(17) Flagler.....	1
11	(18) Franklin.....	1
12	(19) Gadsden.....	1
13	(20) Gilchrist.....	1
14	(21) Glades.....	1
15	(22) Gulf.....	1
16	(23) Hamilton.....	1
17	(24) Hardee.....	1
18	(25) Hendry.....	1
19	(26) Hernando.....	2
20	(27) Highlands.....	1
21	(28) Hillsborough.....	<u>19</u> <del>17</del>
22	(29) Holmes.....	1
23	(30) Indian River.....	2
24	(31) Jackson.....	1
25	(32) Jefferson.....	1
26	(33) Lafayette.....	1
27	(34) Lake.....	3
28	(35) Lee.....	<u>8</u> <del>7</del>
29	(36) Leon.....	5
30	(37) Levy.....	1
31	(38) Liberty.....	1

1	(39)	Madison.....	1
2	(40)	Manatee.....	4
3	(41)	Marion.....	<u>5</u> 4
4	(42)	Martin.....	3
5	(43)	Miami-Dade.....	<u>43</u> <del>42</del>
6	(44)	Monroe.....	4
7	(45)	Nassau.....	1
8	(46)	Okaloosa.....	3
9	(47)	Okeechobee.....	1
10	(48)	Orange.....	<u>18</u> <del>16</del>
11	(49)	Osceola.....	3
12	(50)	Palm Beach.....	<u>19</u> <del>18</del>
13	(51)	Pasco.....	<u>6</u> 5
14	(52)	Pinellas.....	<u>18</u> <del>15</del>
15	(53)	Polk.....	9
16	(54)	Putnam.....	2
17	(55)	St. Johns.....	2
18	(56)	St. Lucie.....	4
19	(57)	Santa Rosa.....	2
20	(58)	Sarasota.....	5
21	(59)	Seminole.....	6
22	(60)	Sumter.....	1
23	(61)	Suwannee.....	1
24	(62)	Taylor.....	1
25	(63)	Union.....	1
26	(64)	Volusia.....	10
27	(65)	Wakulla.....	1
28	(66)	Walton.....	1
29	(67)	Washington.....	1

30 Section 3. Effective January 2, 2006, section 35.06,  
31 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1           35.06 Organization of district courts of appeal.--A  
2 district court of appeal shall be organized in each of the  
3 five appellate districts to be named District Court of Appeal,  
4 .... District. The number of judges of each district court of  
5 appeal shall be as follows:

6           (1) In the first district there shall be 15 judges.

7           (2) In the second district there shall be 15 ~~14~~  
8 judges.

9           (3) In the third district there shall be 11 judges.

10          (4) In the fourth district there shall be 12 judges.

11          (5) In the fifth district there shall be 11 ~~10~~ judges.

12          Section 4. (1) The Governor may not fill the circuit  
13 and county court judicial offices created in sections 1 and 2  
14 of this act by appointment, but those offices shall be filled  
15 by election in the 2006 general election pursuant to chapter  
16 105, Florida Statutes. Candidates for the circuit and county  
17 court judicial offices created in sections 1 and 2 of this act  
18 shall qualify as provided in chapter 105, Florida Statutes.

19          (2) The Legislature finds that an emergency does not  
20 exist and the public business does not require immediate  
21 appointment of the circuit and county court judicial offices  
22 created in sections 1 and 2 of this act.

23          (3) The circuit and county court judicial offices  
24 created in sections 1 and 2 of this act constitute vacancies  
25 in office for purposes of qualifying for the 2006 general  
26 election.

27          Section 5. Effective January 2, 2006, the sums of  
28 \$478,037 in recurring funds and \$48,744 in nonrecurring funds  
29 are appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the district  
30 courts for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, and eight full-time  
31 positions are authorized.

1           Section 6. Except as otherwise expressly provided in  
2 this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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5                           SENATE SUMMARY

6           Increases the number of circuit court judges in certain  
7 circuits and increases the number of county court judges  
8 in certain counties. Increases the number of district  
9 court judges in the second and fifth district courts of  
10 appeal. Provides for filling the offices of the new  
11 circuit and county court judges in the 2006 general  
12 election.  
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