

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the judiciary; amending s. 26.031,
 3 F.S.; increasing the number of circuit court judges in the
 4 Twentieth Judicial Circuit; amending s. 34.022, F.S.;
 5 increasing the number of county court judges in Collier
 6 and Lee Counties; providing for appointment of certain
 7 additional judges; providing for qualification and
 8 election of certain additional judges; providing
 9 legislative findings; providing effective dates.

10

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

12

13 Section 1. Effective April 1, 2006, subsection (20) of
 14 section 26.031, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 2 of
 15 chapter 2005-150, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

16 26.031 Judicial circuits; number of judges.--The number of
 17 circuit judges in each circuit shall be as follows:

18

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| JUDICIAL CIRCUIT | TOTAL |
| (20) Twentieth | <u>27</u> 23 |

21 Section 2. Effective April 1, 2006, subsections (11) and
 22 (35) of section 34.022, Florida Statutes, as amended by section
 23 4 of chapter 2005-150, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

24 34.022 Number of county court judges for each county.--The
 25 number of county court judges in each county shall be as
 26 follows:

27

| | |
|--------|-------|
| COUNTY | TOTAL |
|--------|-------|

29 (11) Collier4 ~~3~~

30 (35) Lee8 ~~7~~

31 Section 3. Effective January 2, 2007, subsection (20) of
32 section 26.031, Florida Statutes, as amended by this act, is
33 amended to read:

34 26.031 Judicial circuits; number of judges.--The number of
35 circuit judges in each circuit shall be as follows:

| 37 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 38 (20) Twentieth | <u>31</u> 27 |

39 Section 4. (1) The judicial offices created in sections 1
40 and 2 of this act shall be filled through appointment by the
41 Governor. Judges appointed as provided in this subsection shall
42 take office for a term beginning on April 1, 2006.

43 (2)(a) The judicial offices created in section 3 of this
44 act may not be appointed by the Governor but shall be filled by
45 election in 2006 pursuant to chapter 105, Florida Statutes.
46 Candidates for those judicial offices shall qualify as provided
47 in chapter 105, Florida Statutes.

48 (b) The Legislature finds that no emergency exists and
49 that public business does not require immediate appointment of
50 the judicial offices created in section 3 of this act prior to
51 the effective date of that section.

52 (c) Notwithstanding the effective date of section 3 of
53 this act, the creation of the judicial offices in that section
54 shall constitute vacancies in office for purposes of qualifying
55 for the 2006 general election.

HB 49B

2005

56 | Section 5. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
57 | act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.