

A bill to be entitled  
 An act relating to judges; amending s. 26.031, F.S.;  
 revising the number of circuit court judges in certain  
 circuits; amending s. 34.022, F.S.; revising the number of  
 county court judges in certain counties; providing for the  
 election of new circuit and county court judges created by  
 the act in the 2006 general election; providing qualifying  
 dates for these positions; providing legislative findings;  
 providing that the circuit and county court judicial  
 offices created by the act constitute vacancies in office  
 for purposes of qualifying for the 2006 general election;  
 providing appropriations and authorizing positions;  
 providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 26.031, Florida Statutes, as amended by  
 section 2 of chapter 2005-150, Laws of Florida, and section 1 of  
 chapter 2005-356, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

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

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT	TOTAL
(1) First.....	<u>24</u> <del>22</del>
(2) Second.....	16
(3) Third.....	7
(4) Fourth.....	<u>35</u> <del>32</del>

28 (5) Fifth.....31 ~~28~~  
 29 (6) Sixth.....45 ~~44~~  
 30 (7) Seventh.....27 ~~26~~  
 31 (8) Eighth.....13  
 32 (9) Ninth.....43 ~~40~~  
 33 (10) Tenth.....28 ~~26~~  
 34 (11) Eleventh.....80 ~~77~~  
 35 (12) Twelfth.....21 ~~19~~  
 36 (13) Thirteenth.....45 ~~41~~  
 37 (14) Fourteenth.....11 ~~10~~  
 38 (15) Fifteenth.....35  
 39 (16) Sixteenth.....4  
 40 (17) Seventeenth.....58 ~~56~~  
 41 (18) Eighteenth.....26 ~~25~~  
 42 (19) Nineteenth.....19 ~~18~~  
 43 (20) Twentieth.....31 ~~25~~

44 Section 2. Section 34.022, Florida Statutes, as amended by  
 45 section 4 of chapter 2005-150, Laws of Florida, and section 2 of  
 46 chapter 2005-356, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

47 34.022 Number of county court judges for each county.--The  
 48 number of county court judges in each county shall be as  
 49 follows:

51 COUNTY	TOTAL
52 (1) Alachua.....	5
53 (2) Baker.....	1
54 (3) Bay.....	4

55	(4) Bradford.....	1
56	(5) Brevard.....	<u>11</u> 9
57	(6) Broward.....	<u>32</u> <del>28</del>
58	(7) Calhoun.....	1
59	(8) Charlotte.....	<u>3</u> <del>2</del>
60	(9) Citrus.....	1
61	(10) Clay.....	2
62	(11) Collier.....	<u>6</u> 5
63	(12) Columbia.....	1
64	(13) DeSoto.....	1
65	(14) Dixie.....	1
66	(15) Duval.....	<u>17</u> <del>16</del>
67	(16) Escambia.....	5
68	(17) Flagler.....	1
69	(18) Franklin.....	1
70	(19) Gadsden.....	1
71	(20) Gilchrist.....	1
72	(21) Glades.....	1
73	(22) Gulf.....	1
74	(23) Hamilton.....	1
75	(24) Hardee.....	1
76	(25) Hendry.....	1
77	(26) Hernando.....	2
78	(27) Highlands.....	1
79	(28) Hillsborough.....	17
80	(29) Holmes.....	1
81	(30) Indian River.....	2

82	(31)	Jackson.....	1
83	(32)	Jefferson.....	1
84	(33)	Lafayette.....	1
85	(34)	Lake.....	3
86	(35)	Lee.....	<u>8</u> 7
87	(36)	Leon.....	5
88	(37)	Levy.....	1
89	(38)	Liberty.....	1
90	(39)	Madison.....	1
91	(40)	Manatee.....	4
92	(41)	Marion.....	4
93	(42)	Martin.....	3
94	(43)	Miami-Dade.....	<u>43</u> <del>42</del>
95	(44)	Monroe.....	4
96	(45)	Nassau.....	1
97	(46)	Okaloosa.....	3
98	(47)	Okeechobee.....	1
99	(48)	Orange.....	<u>18</u> <del>16</del>
100	(49)	Osceola.....	<u>4</u> 3
101	(50)	Palm Beach.....	<u>19</u> <del>18</del>
102	(51)	Pasco.....	<u>7</u> 5
103	(52)	Pinellas.....	<u>17</u> <del>15</del>
104	(53)	Polk.....	<u>10</u> 9
105	(54)	Putnam.....	2
106	(55)	St. Johns.....	2
107	(56)	St. Lucie.....	4
108	(57)	Santa Rosa.....	2

109 (58) Sarasota.....5  
 110 (59) Seminole.....6  
 111 (60) Sumter.....1  
 112 (61) Suwannee.....1  
 113 (62) Taylor.....1  
 114 (63) Union.....1  
 115 (64) Volusia.....10  
 116 (65) Wakulla.....1  
 117 (66) Walton.....1  
 118 (67) Washington.....1

119 Section 3. (1) The Governor may not fill the circuit and  
 120 county court judicial offices created in sections 1 and 2 of  
 121 this act by appointment, but those offices shall be filled by  
 122 election in the 2006 general election pursuant to chapter 105,  
 123 Florida Statutes. Candidates for the circuit and county court  
 124 judicial offices created in sections 1 and 2 of this act shall  
 125 qualify as provided in chapter 105, Florida Statutes, except  
 126 that candidates qualifying under this act shall qualify no  
 127 earlier than noon of the 50th day, and no later than noon of the  
 128 46th day, before the primary election.

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

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

136        (4) The terms of the circuit and county court judicial  
137 offices created in sections 1 and 2 of this act shall begin on  
138 January 2, 2007.

139        Section 4. The sums of \$7,029,955 in recurring funds and  
140 \$268,402 in nonrecurring funds are appropriated from the General  
141 Revenue Fund to the circuit and county courts for the 2006-2007  
142 fiscal year and 122 full-time positions and associated rate of  
143 10,250,751 are authorized. The sum of \$2,926,000 in recurring  
144 funds is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the  
145 Justice Administrative Commission for the state attorneys and 55  
146 full-time positions and associated rate of 2,107,490 are  
147 authorized. From the 55 full-time positions, up to two full-time  
148 positions, associated funding, and rate shall be distributed to  
149 the state attorney for each judicial office created by this act  
150 when assigned to criminal court. The sum of \$1,463,000 in  
151 recurring funds is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to  
152 the Justice Administrative Commission for the public defenders  
153 and 27.5 full-time positions and associated rate of 1,053,745  
154 are authorized. From the 27.5 full-time positions, up to one  
155 full-time position, associated funding, and rate shall be  
156 distributed to the public defender for each judicial office  
157 created by this act when assigned to criminal court.

158        Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.