

# THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



**Wilton Simpson**  
*President of the Senate*



**Chris Sprowls**  
*Speaker of the House of  
Representatives*

March 10, 2022

The Honorable Chris Sprowls  
Speaker, House of Representatives

The Honorable Wilton Simpson  
President of the Senate

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on CS/HB 7027, same being:

An act relating to the judicial branch.

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment 448776.
2. That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this report.

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*Representative Jay Trumbull, Chair*

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*Representative Ramon Alexander, At Large*

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*Representative Webster Barnaby*

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*Representative Christopher Benjamin*

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*Representative Colleen Burton, At Large*

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*Representative Cord Byrd*

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*Representative Charles Wesley Clemons, Sr., At Large*

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*Representative Ben Diamond, At Large*

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*Representative Fentrice Driskell, At Large*

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*Representative Tom Fabricio*

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*Representative Randy Fine, At Large*

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*Representative Michael Gottlieb*

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*Representative Michael Grant, At Large*

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*Representative Brett Thomas Hage*

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*Representative Evan Jenne, At Large*

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*Representative Scott Plakon, Chair*

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*Representative Bryan Avila, At Large*

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*Representative Mike Beltran*

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*Representative Kamia L. Brown, At Large*

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*Representative James Bush , At Large*

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*Representative Michael A. Caruso*

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*Representative Tracie Davis*

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*Representative Brad Drake, At Large*

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*Representative Nicholas X. Duran, At Large*

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*Representative Juan Alfonso Fernandez-Barquin*

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*Representative Joseph Geller, At Large*

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*Representative Erin Grall, At Large*

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*Representative Tommy Gregory*

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*Representative Blaise Ingoglia, At Large*

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*Representative Dotie Joseph*

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*Representative Traci Koster*

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*Representative Chris Latvala, At Large*

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*Representative Andrew Learned*

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*Representative Thomas J. Leek, At Large*

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*Representative Ralph E. Massullo, MD, At Large*

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*Representative Lawrence McClure, At Large*

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*Representative Anika Tene Omphroy, At Large*

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*Representative Bobby Payne, At Large*

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*Representative Daniel Perez, At Large*

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*Representative Rene Plasencia, At Large*

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*Representative Michele K. Rayner*

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*Representative Paul Renner, At Large*

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*Representative Rick Roth, At Large*

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*Representative David Smith*

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*Representative Cyndi Stevenson, At Large*

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*Representative Josie Tomkow, At Large*

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*Representative Matt Willhite, At Large*

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*Representative Patricia H. Williams, At Large*

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*Representative Jayer Williamson, At Large*

**Managers on the part of the House of Representatives**

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*Senator Kelli Stargel, Chair*

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*Senator Ben Albritton*

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*Senator Lorraine Ausley*

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*Senator Dennis Baxley*

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*Senator Aaron Bean, At Large*

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*Senator Lori Berman*

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*Senator Lauren Book, At Large*

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*Senator Jim Boyd*

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*Senator Randolph Bracy*

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*Senator Jennifer Bradley*

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*Senator Jason Brodeur*

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*Senator Doug Broxson*

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*Senator Danny Burgess*

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*Senator Janet Cruz*

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*Senator Manny Diaz*

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*Senator Gary M. Farmer*

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*Senator George B. Gainer*

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*Senator Ileana Garcia*

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*Senator Audrey Gibson, At Large*

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*Senator Joe Gruters*

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*Senator Gayle Harrell*

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*Senator Ed Hooper*

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*Senator Travis Hutson*

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*Senator Shevrin D. Jones*

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*Senator Debbie Mayfield, At Large*

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*Senator Kathleen Passidomo, At Large*

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*Senator Keith Perry, At Large*

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*Senator Jason W. B. Pizzo*

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*Senator Tina Scott Polsky*

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*Senator Bobby Powell, At Large*

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*Senator Ray Wesley Rodrigues*

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*Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez*

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*Senator Darryl Ervin Rouson, At Large*

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*Senator Wilton Simpson*

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*Senator Linda Stewart, At Large*

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*Senator Annette Taddeo*

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*Senator Victor M. Torres*

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*Senator Tom A. Wright*

**Conferees on the part of the Senate**

The Conference Committee Amendment for CS/HB 7027, relating to the judicial branch, creates a sixth appellate district court of appeal, which will have its headquarters in Lakeland, Polk County, Florida. The bill realigns the judicial circuits within the existing First, Second, and Fifth districts and creates a sixth district composed of the Ninth, Tenth, and Twentieth circuits. The Third and Fourth districts remain unchanged. Under the bill, the First DCA will decrease from 15 appellate judges to 13; the Second DCA will decrease from 16 appellate judges to 15; the Fifth DCA will increase from 11 appellate judges to 12; and the Sixth DCA will have 9 appellate judges. The bill ultimately adds a total of seven new appellate judgeships overall, in accordance with the Supreme Court's certification. The creation of the Sixth DCA and the realignment of existing districts is effective January 1, 2023.

The bill makes conforming changes to statute to account for the creation of the sixth district and specifies which judicial circuits constitute the five Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel districts. The bill recognizes the addition of a judicial nominating commission for the sixth district, effective January 1, 2023. The bill also makes conforming changes to the Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims, to account for the addition of a sixth appellate district.

The bill adds one additional county court judgeship in Lake County, Florida, as recommended in the Supreme Court's certification.

The bill will have a significant fiscal impact on state government expenditures.

The bill is effective upon becoming a law, unless otherwise expressly provided in the act.