

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to alternative headquarters for
 3 district court judges; amending s. 35.051, F.S.;
 4 authorizing a district court judge to have an
 5 appropriate facility in an adjacent county to his or
 6 her county of residence as the judge's official
 7 headquarters; authorizing subsistence and travel
 8 reimbursement for such locations; providing an
 9 effective date.

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

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 13 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 35.051, Florida
 14 Statutes, is amended to read:

15 35.051 Subsistence and travel reimbursement for judges
 16 with alternate headquarters.—

17 (1)(a) A district court of appeal judge is eligible for
 18 the designation of a county courthouse or another appropriate
 19 facility in his or her county of residence, or an adjacent
 20 county within the district, as his or her official headquarters
 21 for purposes of s. 112.061 if the judge permanently resides more
 22 than 50 miles from:

23 1. The appellate district's headquarters as prescribed
 24 under s. 35.05(1), if the judge is assigned to such
 25 headquarters; or

26 2. The appellate district's branch headquarters
27 established under s. 35.05(2), if the judge is assigned to such
28 branch headquarters.

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30 The official headquarters may serve only as the judge's private
31 chambers.

32 (b)1. A district court of appeal judge for whom an
33 official headquarters is designated under paragraph (a) ~~in his~~
34 ~~or her county of residence under this subsection~~ is eligible for
35 subsistence at a rate to be established by the Chief Justice for
36 each day or partial day that the judge is at the headquarters or
37 branch headquarters of his or her appellate district to conduct
38 court business, as authorized by the chief judge of that
39 district court of appeal. The Chief Justice may authorize a
40 judge to choose between subsistence based on lodging at a
41 single-occupancy rate and meal reimbursement as provided in s.
42 112.061 and subsistence at a fixed rate prescribed by the Chief
43 Justice.

44 2. In addition to subsistence, a district court of appeal
45 judge is eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses as
46 provided in s. 112.061(7) and (8) for travel between the judge's
47 official headquarters and the headquarters or branch
48 headquarters of the appellate district to conduct court
49 business. If the judge's official headquarters designated under
50 paragraph (a) is located in a county adjacent to the judge's

51 county of residence, such reimbursement is limited to the lesser
52 of:

53 a. The amount for travel between the judge's official
54 headquarters and the headquarters or branch headquarters of the
55 appellate district; or

56 b. The amount that would be authorized for travel between
57 an official headquarters maintained in the judge's county of
58 residence and the headquarters or branch headquarters of the
59 appellate district.

60 (c) Payment of subsistence and reimbursement for travel
61 expenses between the judge's official headquarters and the
62 headquarters or branch headquarters of his or her appellate
63 district shall be made to the extent that appropriated funds are
64 available, as determined by the Chief Justice.

65 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.