

By Senator Bernard

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to performance reports of circuit and
3 county court judges; providing a short title; creating
4 s. 28.51, F.S.; requiring each clerk of the circuit
5 court to prepare an annual performance report with
6 specified information regarding each circuit and
7 county court judge; defining the term "final
8 disposition"; requiring such reports to be posted by a
9 certain date on specified websites; requiring such
10 reports to remain posted for a specified time period;
11 authorizing judges to prepare a specified explanatory
12 statement; requiring such statements to be posted with
13 the relevant reports in certain circumstances;
14 providing for a specified reporting period; providing
15 an effective date.

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

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19 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Judicial
20 Efficiency and Transparency (JET) Act."

21 Section 2. Section 28.51, Florida Statutes, is created to
22 read:

23 28.51 Performance reports of circuit and county court
24 judges.—

25 (1) Each clerk of the circuit court shall prepare an annual
26 performance report regarding the judicial efficiency of each
27 circuit and county court judge in this state. The report shall
28 detail the judicial activities during the preceding calendar
29 year and contain, but need not be limited to, the following

24-01274-26

2026666__

30 information, all of which shall be separated by court division:

31 (a) The number of cases assigned to each judge.

32 (b) The number of cases that have reached final
33 disposition. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "final
34 disposition" means the rendering of a decision or a judgment by
35 a judge in a judicial proceeding in which a case is finally
36 determined by adjudication, dismissal, or other final
37 disposition.

38 (c) The clearance rate, stated as the total percentage of
39 cases filed during each reporting period which were disposed of.

40 (d) The average length of all active pending cases,
41 measured as the number of days from filing until the end of each
42 reporting period.

43 (e) The number of civil cases assigned to each judge,
44 except civil cases placed on inactive status, pending for 3
45 years or more, measured from the filing of a complaint or other
46 filing initiating a case until the end of each reporting period.

47 (f) The average number of days, beginning on the date a
48 hearing is scheduled and ending on the date the hearing is held,
49 for each hearing held in each reporting period.

50 (2) On or before April 1 of each year, each report shall be
51 posted on the website of the clerk of the circuit court, as
52 applicable, and on the website of each circuit and county court
53 and shall remain posted for the duration of the tenure of the
54 subject judge.

55 (3) A judge may prepare an explanatory statement detailing
56 the basis for any extenuating circumstance that the judge
57 believes impacts the metrics reported pursuant to this section.
58 Upon approval of the chief judge of each circuit, the

24-01274-26

2026666__

59 explanatory statement shall be posted with the annual
60 performance report pursuant to subsection (2).

61 (4) The first reporting period required by this section
62 shall be the 2028 calendar year.

63 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.