

HB 5301

2018

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to judges; amending s. 26.031, F.S.;
 3 revising the number of circuit court judges in certain
 4 circuits; amending s. 34.022, F.S.; revising the
 5 number of county court judges in certain counties;
 6 providing legislative findings; providing that the
 7 circuit and county court judicial offices created by
 8 the act constitute vacancies in office for purposes of
 9 qualifying for the 2018 general election; providing
 10 for the election of new circuit and county court
 11 judges created by the act in the 2018 general
 12 election; providing qualifying dates for these
 13 positions; specifying elimination dates for the
 14 decertified offices; providing an effective date.

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

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 18 Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 26.031, Florida
 19 Statutes, is amended to read:

20 26.031 Judicial circuits; number of judges.—The number of
 21 circuit judges in each circuit shall be as follows:

22 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT	TOTAL
23 (9) Ninth.....	<u>45</u> 43

24 Section 2. Subsections (1), (5), (8), (11), (16), (28),
 25 (36), (44), (51), (53), and (54) of section 34.022, Florida

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Statutes, are amended to read:

34.022 Number of county court judges for each county.—The number of county court judges in each county shall be as follows:

COUNTY	TOTAL
(1) Alachua.....	<u>4</u> 5
(5) Brevard.....	<u>8</u> 11
(8) Charlotte.....	<u>2</u> 3
(11) Collier.....	<u>5</u> 6
(16) Escambia.....	<u>4</u> 5
(28) Hillsborough.....	<u>19</u> 17
(36) Leon.....	<u>4</u> 5
(44) Monroe.....	<u>3</u> 4
(51) Pasco.....	<u>5</u> 7
(53) Polk.....	<u>9</u> 10
(54) Putnam.....	<u>1</u> 2

Section 3. (1) The Legislature finds that an emergency does not exist and the public business does not require immediate appointment of the circuit and county court judicial offices created in sections 1 and 2 of this act.

(2) The circuit and county court judicial offices created in sections 1 and 2 of this act constitute vacancies in office for purposes of qualifying for the 2018 general election.

(3) The Governor may not fill the circuit and county court

51 judicial offices created in sections 1 and 2 of this act by
52 appointment, but those offices shall be filled by election in
53 the 2018 general election pursuant to chapter 105, Florida
54 Statutes. Candidates for the circuit and county court judicial
55 offices created in sections 1 and 2 of this act must qualify as
56 provided in chapter 105, Florida Statutes, except that
57 candidates qualifying under this act must qualify no earlier
58 than noon of the 50th day, and no later than noon of the 46th
59 day, before the primary election.

60 (4) The terms of the circuit and county court judicial
61 offices created in sections 1 and 2 of this act shall begin on
62 January 8, 2019.

63 (5) The county court judicial offices decertified in
64 section 2 of this act are eliminated upon the expiration of a
65 judicial term, as provided in s. 9, Article V of the State
66 Constitution.

67 (6) If on the same day the number of county court judges
68 whose terms expire is greater than the number of
69 decertifications for that county as set forth in this act, the
70 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall determine which
71 specific county court judicial offices will be eliminated in
72 that county subject to judicial decertification.

73 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

By the Committee on Judiciary; and Senator Steube

590-02451-18

20181396c1

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to judgeships; amending s. 26.031,
F.S.; adding judges to the Ninth Judicial Circuit
Court; amending s. 34.022, F.S.; adding and removing
judges from certain county courts; providing an
effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 26.031, Florida
Statutes, 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
(9) Ninth.....	<u>45</u> 43

Section 2. Subsections (1), (5), (8), (11), (16), (28),
(36), (51), (53), and (54) of section 34.022, Florida Statutes,
are amended to read:

34.022 Number of county court judges for each county.—The
number of county court judges in each county shall be as
follows:

COUNTY	TOTAL
(1) Alachua.....	<u>4</u> 5
(5) Brevard.....	<u>8</u> 11
(8) Charlotte.....	<u>2</u> 3
(11) Collier.....	<u>5</u> 6
(16) Escambia.....	<u>4</u> 5

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30 (28) Hillsborough.....19 17
 31 (36) Leon.....4 5
 32 (51) Pasco.....5 7
 33 (53) Polk.....9 10
 34 (54) Putnam.....1 2
 35 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.