

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO AMEND OR DEFEAT HB 5301 IN ORDER TO RETAIN A TOTAL OF FOUR COUNTY JUDGESHIPS FOR MONROE COUNTY; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO PROVIDE THIS RESOLUTION TO CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, Florida Senate Bill No. 1396 was amended in committee to allow Monroe County to retain a total of four county judges, however at this time, the companion Florida House Bill No. 5301 still includes a provision to remove a number of county court judgeships across the state, including one from Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission supports the proposed Amendment 1 to HB 5301, submitted by Representative Holly Raschein, which would remove Monroe County from the list of counties subject to an adjustment of the number of judges; and

WHEREAS, in Monroe County, a County Court Judge is assigned in each of three geographical areas (Key Largo, Marathon, Key West), with the fourth judge also assigned to Key West, the county seat, which is the most populous area (both residents and visitors) in the Florida Keys, and the location where the highest number of cases are filed and heard; and

WHEREAS, members of the Florida Legislature must consider the 100-mile long geography of Monroe County, and the obstacle to justice that the removal of even one judgeship could present for citizens who lack the time and money to travel up to 100 miles each way for jury duty, or a brief hearing; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission opposes any legislation that proposes to reduce the number of judges in Monroe County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That the Key West City Commission urges the Florida Legislature to amend or defeat House Bill 5301, to ensure that Monroe County retains a total of four (4) County Judgeships in Monroe County.

Section 2: That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to Governor Rick Scott, House Speaker Corcoran, Representative Hagar (Sponsor), Senator Anitere Flores and Representative Holly Raschein.

Section 3: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the Presiding Officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the  
Commission on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

Filed with the Clerk on \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

Mayor Craig Cates	_____
Vice Mayor Clayton Lopez	_____
Commissioner Sam Kaufman	_____
Commissioner Richard Payne	_____
Commissioner Margaret Romero	_____
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	_____
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
CRAIG CATES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK