CHAPTER 99-151

House Bill No. 1877

An act relating to the judiciary; amending s. 26.031, F.S.; increasing the number of judges in specified judicial circuits; amending s. 34.022, F.S.; increasing the number of judges in specified county courts; amending s. 35.06, F.S.; increasing the number of judges in specified district courts of appeal; requiring the judicial nominating commission to make nominations to fill specified vacancies by a certain date; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1.   Effective August 1, 1999, 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
(1)	First	19
(2)	Second	13 ~~12~~
(3)	Third	6 ~~5~~
(4)	Fourth	30 ~~29~~
(5)	Fifth	20
(6)	Sixth	37
(7)	Seventh	22 ~~21~~
(8)	Eighth	10
(9)	Ninth	35 ~~33~~
(10)	Tenth	18
(11)	Eleventh	70
(12)	Twelfth	18 ~~17~~
(13)	Thirteenth	35 ~~33~~
(14)	Fourteenth	9
(15)	Fifteenth	31
(16)	Sixteenth	4

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(17)   Seventeenth .... <u>48</u> 46

(18)   Eighteenth .... <u>22</u> 21

(19)   Nineteenth 13

(20)   Twentieth .... <u>21</u> 20

Section 2.   Effective October 1, 1999, section 26.031, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 1 of this act, 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

(1)   First .... <u>20</u> 19

(2)   Second 13

(3)   Third 6

(4)   Fourth 30

(5)   Fifth .... <u>22</u> 20

(6)   Sixth .... <u>39</u> 37

(7)   Seventh 22

(8)   Eighth .... <u>11</u> 10

(9)   Ninth 35

(10)   Tenth .... <u>19</u> 18

(11)   Eleventh .... <u>71</u> 70

(12)   Twelfth 18

(13)   Thirteenth 35

(14)   Fourteenth 9

(15)   Fifteenth .... <u>32</u> 31

(16)   Sixteenth 4

(17)   Seventeenth .... <u>49</u> 48

(18)   Eighteenth 22

(19)   Nineteenth .... <u>15</u> 13

(20)   Twentieth 21

Section 3. Effective August 1, 1999, section 34.022, Florida Statutes, is 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	5
(2)	Baker	1
(3)	Bay	3
(4)	Bradford	1
(5)	Brevard	7
(6)	Broward	25
(7)	Calhoun	1
(8)	Charlotte	2
(9)	Citrus	1
(10)	Clay	2
(11)	Collier	3
(12)	Columbia	1
(13)	Dade	41
(14)	DeSoto	1
(15)	Dixie	1
(16)	Duval	13
(17)	Escambia	5
(18)	Flagler	1
(19)	Franklin	1
(20)	Gadsden	1
(21)	Gilchrist	1
(22)	Glades	1
(23)	Gulf	1
(24)	Hamilton	1

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(53)   Polk . . . . <u>8</u> 6

(54)   Putnam 1

(55)   St. Johns 2

(56)   St. Lucie 3

(57)   Santa Rosa 2

(58)   Sarasota 4

(59)   Seminole 5

(60)   Sumter 1

(61)   Suwannee 1

(62)   Taylor 1

(63)   Union 1

(64)   Volusia 9

(65)   Wakulla 1

(66)   Walton 1

(67)   Washington 1

Section 4.   Effective October 1, 1999, section 34.022, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 3 of this act, is 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 5

(2)   Baker 1

(3)   Bay 3

(4)   Bradford 1

(5)   Brevard 7

(6)   Broward 25

(7)   Calhoun 1

(8)   Charlotte 2

(9)   Citrus 1

(10) Clay 2

(11) Collier 3

(12) Columbia 1

(13) Dade 41

(14) DeSoto 1

(15) Dixie 1

(16) Duval . . . . <u>14</u> 1̶3̶

(17) Escambia 5

(18) Flagler 1

(19) Franklin 1

(20) Gadsden 1

(21) Gilchrist 1

(22) Glades 1

(23) Gulf 1

(24) Hamilton 1

(25) Hardee 1

(26) Hendry 1

(27) Hernando 1

(28) Highlands 1

(29) Hillsborough . . . . <u>14</u> 1̶3̶

(30) Holmes 1

(31) Indian River 2

(32) Jackson 1

(33) Jefferson 1

(34) Lafayette 1

(35) Lake 2

(36) Lee 6

(37) Leon . . . . <u>5</u> 4

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CODING: Words s̶t̶r̶i̶c̶k̶e̶n̶ are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

(38) Levy 1

(39) Liberty 1

(40) Madison 1

(41) Manatee 3

(42) Marion 3

(43) Martin 2

(44) Monroe 4

(45) Nassau 1

(46) Okaloosa 2

(47) Okeechobee 1

(48) Orange 14

(49) Osceola 3

(50) Palm Beach 17

(51) Pasco 3

(52) Pinellas 13

(53) Polk 8

(54) Putnam . . . . <u>2</u> ~~1~~

(55) St. Johns 2

(56) St. Lucie 3

(57) Santa Rosa 2

(58) Sarasota 4

(59) Seminole 5

(60) Sumter 1

(61) Suwannee 1

(62) Taylor 1

(63) Union 1

(64) Volusia 9

(65) Wakulla 1

Section 5.   Effective October 1, 1999, section 35.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

35.06   Organization of district courts of appeal.—A district court of appeal shall be organized in each of the five appellate districts to be named District Court of Appeal, ... District. The number of judges of each district court of appeal shall be as follows:

(1)   In the first district there shall be 15 judges.

(2)   In the second district there shall be 14 judges.

(3)   In the third district there shall be 11 judges.

(4)   In the fourth district there shall be 12 judges.

(5)   In the fifth district there shall be 10 9 judges.

The successors of the original and additional judges of the district courts of appeal shall be elected at the general election next preceding the expiration of their respective terms of office to serve for full terms of 6 years.

Section 6.   No judicial nominating commission may seek applications or advertise for a judicial office created by sections 1 and 3 of this act before August 1, 1999 or created by sections 2, 4, and 5 before October 1, 1999.

Section 7.

Section 8.   Except as otherwise provided herein, this act shall take effect August 1, 1999.

Approved by the Governor May 12, 1999.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 12, 1999.