

Senate Bill No. 32-E

An act relating to the judiciary; amending s. 26.031, F.S.; increasing the number of judges in specified judicial circuits; providing for election or appointment by the Governor; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. 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 . . . . .	21
(2) Second . . . . .	15
(3) Third . . . . .	6
(4) Fourth . . . . .	31
(5) Fifth . . . . .	<u>25</u> <del>23</del>
(6) Sixth . . . . .	<u>41</u> <del>40</del>
(7) Seventh . . . . .	<u>24</u> <del>23</del>
(8) Eighth . . . . .	<u>12</u> <del>11</del>
(9) Ninth . . . . .	<u>38</u> <del>36</del>
(10) Tenth . . . . .	<u>22</u> <del>20</del>
(11) Eleventh . . . . .	<u>74</u> <del>72</del>
(12) Twelfth . . . . .	<u>19</u> <del>18</del>
(13) Thirteenth . . . . .	<u>37</u> <del>36</del>
(14) Fourteenth . . . . .	9
(15) Fifteenth . . . . .	<u>34</u> <del>33</del>
(16) Sixteenth . . . . .	4
(17) Seventeenth . . . . .	<u>53</u> <del>51</del>
(18) Eighteenth . . . . .	<u>24</u> <del>23</del>
(19) Nineteenth . . . . .	15

(20) Twentieth ..... 23 22

Section 2. (1) The judicial offices created by this act for the sixth, seventh, eighth, one in the ninth, one in the tenth, twelfth, thirteenth, fifteenth, and one in the seventeenth judicial circuits shall be filled by election in 2002 pursuant to chapter 105, Florida Statutes. Candidates for those judicial offices shall qualify as provided in chapter 105, Florida Statutes, no earlier than noon on July 22, 2002, and no later than noon on July 26, 2002.

(2) The judicial offices created by this act for the fifth, one in the ninth, one in the tenth, two in the eleventh, one in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and twentieth judicial circuits shall be filled through appointment by the Governor. Judges appointed as provided in this subsection shall take office for a term beginning on May 1, 2003.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

Approved by the Governor May 24, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 24, 2002.