

House Bill No. 113

An act relating to judges; amending s. 26.031, F.S.; revising the number of circuit court judges in certain circuits; amending s. 34.022, F.S.; revising the number of county court judges in certain counties; providing for the election of new circuit and county court judges created by the act in the 2006 general election; providing qualifying dates for these positions; providing legislative findings; providing that the circuit and county court judicial offices created by the act constitute vacancies in office for purposes of qualifying for the 2006 general election; providing appropriations and authorizing positions; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 26.031, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 2005-150, Laws of Florida, and section 1 of chapter 2005-356, Laws of Florida, 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>24</u> 22
(2) Second	16
(3) Third	7
(4) Fourth	<u>35</u> 32
(5) Fifth	<u>31</u> 28
(6) Sixth	<u>45</u> 44
(7) Seventh	<u>27</u> 26
(8) Eighth	13
(9) Ninth	<u>43</u> 40
(10) Tenth	<u>28</u> 26
(11) Eleventh	<u>80</u> 77
(12) Twelfth	<u>21</u> 19
(13) Thirteenth	<u>45</u> 41
(14) Fourteenth	<u>11</u> 10

(15) Fifteenth 35

(16) Sixteenth 4

(17) Seventeenth 58 ~~56~~

(18) Eighteenth 26 ~~25~~

(19) Nineteenth 19 ~~18~~

(20) Twentieth 31 ~~25~~

Section 2. Section 34.022, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 4 of chapter 2005-150, Laws of Florida, and section 2 of chapter 2005-356, Laws of Florida, 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	4
(4) Bradford	1
(5) Brevard	<u>11</u> 9
(6) Broward	<u>32</u> 28
(7) Calhoun	1
(8) Charlotte	<u>3</u> 2
(9) Citrus	1
(10) Clay	2
(11) Collier	<u>6</u> 5
(12) Columbia	1
(13) DeSoto	1
(14) Dixie	1
(15) Duval	<u>17</u> 16
(16) Escambia	5
(17) Flagler	1

(18) Franklin 1

(19) Gadsden 1

(20) Gilchrist 1

(21) Glades 1

(22) Gulf 1

(23) Hamilton 1

(24) Hardee 1

(25) Hendry 1

(26) Hernando 2

(27) Highlands 1

(28) Hillsborough 17

(29) Holmes 1

(30) Indian River 2

(31) Jackson 1

(32) Jefferson 1

(33) Lafayette 1

(34) Lake 3

(35) Lee 8 7

(36) Leon 5

(37) Levy 1

(38) Liberty 1

(39) Madison 1

(40) Manatee 4

(41) Marion 4

(42) Martin 3

(43) Miami-Dade 43 42

(44) Monroe 4

(45) Nassau 1

(46) Okaloosa 3

(47) Okeechobee 1

(48) Orange 18 16

(49) Osceola 4 3

(50) Palm Beach 19 18

(51) Pasco 7 5

(52) Pinellas 17 15

(53) Polk 10 9

(54) Putnam 2

(55) St. Johns 2

(56) St. Lucie 4

(57) Santa Rosa 2

(58) Sarasota 5

(59) Seminole 6

(60) Sumter 1

(61) Suwannee 1

(62) Taylor 1

(63) Union 1

(64) Volusia 10

(65) Wakulla 1

(66) Walton 1

(67) Washington 1

Section 3. (1) The Governor may not fill the circuit and county court judicial offices created in sections 1 and 2 of this act by appointment, but those offices shall be filled by election in the 2006 general election pursuant to chapter 105, Florida Statutes. Candidates for the circuit and county court judicial offices created in sections 1 and 2 of this act shall qualify as provided in chapter 105, Florida Statutes, except that candidates qualifying under this act shall qualify no earlier than noon of the 50th day, and no later than noon of the 46th day, before the primary election.

(2) 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.

(3) 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 2006 general election.

(4) The terms of the circuit and county court judicial offices created in sections 1 and 2 of this act shall begin on January 2, 2007.

Section 4. The sums of \$7,029,955 in recurring funds and \$268,402 in nonrecurring funds are appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the circuit and county courts for the 2006-2007 fiscal year and 122 full-time positions and associated rate of 10,250,751 are authorized. The sum of \$2,926,000 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Justice Administrative Commission for the state attorneys and 55 full-time positions and associated rate of 2,107,490 are authorized. From the 55 full-time positions, up to two full-time positions, associated funding, and rate shall be distributed to the state attorney for each judicial office created by this act when assigned to criminal court. The sum of \$1,463,000 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Justice Administrative Commission for the public defenders and 27.5 full-time positions and associated rate of 1,053,745 are authorized. From the 27.5 full-time positions, up to one full-time position, associated funding, and rate shall be distributed to the public defender for each judicial office created by this act when assigned to criminal court.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

Became a law without the Governor's approval June 10, 2006.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 9, 2006.