

## CHAPTER 2019-95

### House Bill No. 5011

An act relating to courts; creating s. 25.025, F.S.; authorizing certain Supreme Court justices to have an appropriate facility in their district of residence designated as their official headquarters; providing that an official headquarters may serve only as a justice's private chambers; providing that such justices are eligible for a certain subsistence allowance and reimbursement for certain transportation expenses; requiring that such allowance and reimbursement be made to the extent that appropriated funds are available, as determined by the Chief Justice; requiring the Chief Justice to coordinate with certain persons in designating official headquarters; providing that a county is not required to provide space for a justice in a county courthouse; authorizing counties to enter into agreements with the Supreme Court for the use of county courthouse space; prohibiting the Supreme Court from using state funds to lease space in specified facilities to allow a justice to establish an official headquarters; amending s. 26.031, F.S.; revising the number of circuit judges in certain judicial circuits; amending s. 34.022, F.S.; revising the number of county court judges in certain counties; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 25.025, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

#### 25.025 Headquarters.—

(1)(a) A Supreme Court justice who permanently resides outside Leon County shall, if he or she so requests, have a district court of appeal courthouse, a county courthouse, or another appropriate facility in his or her district of residence designated as his or her official headquarters pursuant to s. 112.061. This official headquarters may serve only as the justice's private chambers.

(b) A justice for whom an official headquarters is designated in his or her district of residence under this subsection is eligible for subsistence at a rate to be established by the Chief Justice for each day or partial day that the justice is at the Supreme Court Building for the conduct of the business of the court. In addition to the subsistence allowance, a justice is eligible for reimbursement for transportation expenses as provided in s. 112.061(7) for travel between the justice's official headquarters and the Supreme Court Building for the conduct of the business of the court.

(c) Payment of subsistence and reimbursement for transportation expenses relating to travel between a justice's official headquarters and the Supreme Court Building must be made to the extent that appropriated funds are available, as determined by the Chief Justice.

(2) The Chief Justice shall coordinate with each affected justice and other state and local officials as necessary to implement paragraph (1)(a).

(3)(a) This section does not require a county to provide space in a county courthouse for a justice. A county may enter into an agreement with the Supreme Court governing the use of space in a county courthouse.

(b) The Supreme Court may not use state funds to lease space in a district court of appeal courthouse, county courthouse, or other facility to allow a justice to establish an official headquarters pursuant to subsection (1).

Section 2. Subsections (9) and (12) of section 26.031, Florida Statutes, are 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>44</u> <del>43</del>
(12) Twelfth.....	<u>22</u> <del>21</del>

Section 3. Subsections (9) and (17) 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
(9) Citrus.....	<u>2</u> <del>1</del>
(17) Flagler.....	<u>2</u> <del>1</del>

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor June 7, 2019.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 7, 2019.