

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the court system; repealing s.  
3 25.151, F.S., relating to a prohibition on the  
4 practice of law by a retired justice of the Supreme  
5 Court; repealing ss. 25.191 and 25.231, F.S., relating  
6 to the appointment and duties of a Clerk of the  
7 Supreme Court; amending s. 25.241, F.S.; deleting a  
8 requirement regarding the salary of the Clerk of the  
9 Supreme Court, to conform; repealing s. 25.281, F.S.,  
10 relating to compensation of the Marshal of the Supreme  
11 Court; repealing s. 25.351, F.S., relating to the  
12 acquisition of books by the Supreme Court; repealing  
13 s. 26.01, F.S., relating to the number of judicial  
14 circuits; amending s. 26.021, F.S.; establishing the  
15 number of judicial circuits; repealing certain  
16 residency requirements for circuit judges; repealing  
17 s. 26.51, F.S., relating to payment of the salaries of  
18 circuit judges; amending s. 26.55, F.S.; excluding  
19 retired judges practicing law from the Conference of  
20 Circuit Judges of Florida; removing a requirement that  
21 circuit court judges attend and participate in such  
22 conference; requiring that the conference operate  
23 according to the Rules of Judicial Administration;  
24 revising requirements for such conferences; repealing  
25 ss. 27.50 and 27.55, F.S., relating to the  
26 qualifications, election, compensation, and certain

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27 expenditures of public defenders; creating s. 29.23,  
28 F.S.; providing for certain judicial branch salaries;  
29 repealing ss. 35.12, 35.13, 35.19, and 35.21, F.S.;  
30 relating to the chief judge, quorum, compensation of  
31 judges, and clerk, respectively, of the district  
32 courts of appeal; amending s. 35.22, F.S.; deleting a  
33 requirement for the appointment and salary of a clerk  
34 for each district court of appeal; repealing ss. 35.25  
35 and 35.27, F.S., relating to duties of the clerk and  
36 compensation of the marshal, respectively, of the  
37 district courts of appeal; repealing s. 38.13, F.S.,  
38 relating to replacement of disqualified judges of the  
39 district courts of appeal; amending s. 43.20, F.S.;  
40 revising the number of members of the Judicial  
41 Qualifications Commission, to conform to requirements  
42 of the State Constitution; repealing s. 57.101, F.S.,  
43 relating to the charging of costs against the losing  
44 party for certain copies of records in the Supreme  
45 Court; repealing s. 92.15, F.S., relating to an  
46 evidentiary rule regarding evidence of title to land  
47 passing from the United States; providing an effective  
48 date.

49  
50 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

51  
52 Section 1. Section 25.151, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

53 Section 2. Sections 25.191 and 25.231, Florida Statutes,  
 54 are repealed.

55 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 25.241, Florida  
 56 Statutes, is amended to read:

57 25.241 Clerk of Supreme Court; compensation; assistants;  
 58 filing fees, etc.—

59 ~~(1) The Clerk of the Supreme Court shall be paid an annual~~  
 60 ~~salary to be determined in accordance with s. 25.382.~~

61 Section 4. Section 25.281, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

62 Section 5. Section 25.351, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

63 Section 6. Section 26.01, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

64 Section 7. Section 26.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
 65 read:

66 26.021 Judicial circuits; judges.—The state is divided  
 67 into 20 judicial circuits:

68 (1) The first circuit is composed of Escambia, Okaloosa,  
 69 Santa Rosa, and Walton Counties.

70 (2) The second circuit is composed of Leon, Gadsden,  
 71 Jefferson, Wakulla, Liberty, and Franklin Counties.

72 (3) The third circuit is composed of Columbia, Dixie,  
 73 Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties.

74 (4) The fourth circuit is composed of Clay, Duval, and  
 75 Nassau Counties.

76 (5) The fifth circuit is composed of Citrus, Hernando,  
 77 Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties. ~~Two of the circuit judges~~  
 78 ~~authorized for the fifth circuit shall reside in either Citrus,~~

79 ~~Hernando, or Sumter County, and neither of such two judges shall~~  
 80 ~~reside in the same county.~~

81 (6) The sixth circuit is composed of Pasco and Pinellas  
 82 Counties.

83 (7) The seventh circuit is composed of Flagler, Putnam,  
 84 St. Johns, and Volusia Counties. ~~One judge shall reside in~~  
 85 ~~Flagler County; two judges shall reside in Putnam County; two~~  
 86 ~~judges shall reside in St. Johns County; and three judges shall~~  
 87 ~~reside in Volusia County. There shall be no residency~~  
 88 ~~requirement for any other judges in the circuit.~~

89 (8) The eighth circuit is composed of Alachua, Baker,  
 90 Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union Counties.

91 (9) The ninth circuit is composed of Orange and Osceola  
 92 Counties.

93 (10) The tenth circuit is composed of Hardee, Highlands,  
 94 and Polk Counties.

95 (11) The eleventh circuit is composed of Miami-Dade  
 96 County.

97 (12) The twelfth circuit is composed of Manatee, Sarasota,  
 98 and DeSoto Counties.

99 (13) The thirteenth circuit is composed of Hillsborough  
 100 County.

101 (14) The fourteenth circuit is composed of Bay, Calhoun,  
 102 Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington Counties.

103 (15) The fifteenth circuit is composed of Palm Beach  
 104 County.

105 (16) The sixteenth circuit is composed of Monroe County.  
 106 ~~One judge in the circuit shall reside in the middle or upper~~  
 107 ~~Keys. There shall be no residency requirement for any other~~  
 108 ~~judge in the circuit.~~

109 (17) The seventeenth circuit is composed of Broward  
 110 County.

111 (18) The eighteenth circuit is composed of Brevard and  
 112 Seminole Counties.

113 (19) The nineteenth circuit is composed of Indian River,  
 114 Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties.

115 (20) The twentieth circuit is composed of Charlotte,  
 116 Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties.

117 (21) Notwithstanding subsections (1)-(20), the territorial  
 118 jurisdiction of a circuit court may be expanded as provided for  
 119 in s. 910.03(3).  
 120

121 The judicial nominating commission of each circuit, in  
 122 submitting nominations for any vacancy in a judgeship, and the  
 123 Governor, in filling any vacancy for a judgeship, shall consider  
 124 whether the existing judges within the circuit, together with  
 125 potential nominees or appointees, reflect the geographic  
 126 distribution of the population within the circuit, the  
 127 geographic distribution of the caseload within the circuit, the  
 128 racial and ethnic diversity of the population within the  
 129 circuit, and the geographic distribution of the racial and  
 130 ethnic minority population within the circuit.

131 Section 8. Section 26.51, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

132 Section 9. Section 26.55, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
 133 read:

134 26.55 Conference of Circuit Judges of Florida; duties and  
 135 reports.—

136 (1) There is created and established the Conference of  
 137 Circuit Judges of Florida. The conference shall consist of the  
 138 active and retired circuit judges of the several judicial  
 139 circuits of the state, excluding retired judges practicing law.

140 (2) The conference shall annually elect a chair, whose  
 141 duty it shall be to call all meetings and to appoint committees  
 142 to effectuate the purposes of the conference. ~~It is declared to~~  
 143 ~~be an official function of each circuit judge to attend the~~  
 144 ~~meetings of the conference. It is also an official function of~~  
 145 ~~each circuit judge to participate in the activity of each~~  
 146 ~~committee to the membership of which such judge is appointed.~~

147 (3) ~~(a)~~ It is declared to be the responsibility of the  
 148 conference to operate according to the Rules of Judicial  
 149 Administration adopted by the Supreme Court, which  
 150 responsibilities include:

151 (a)1. Considering and making ~~Consider and make~~  
 152 recommendations concerning the betterment of the judicial system  
 153 of the state and its various parts;

154 (b)2. Considering and making ~~Consider and make~~  
 155 recommendations concerning the improvement of rules and methods  
 156 of procedure and practice in the several courts; ~~and~~

157 (c)3. Reporting Report to the Supreme Court such findings  
 158 and recommendations as the conference may have with reference  
 159 thereto; and-

160 (d)(b) Providing Not less than 60 days before the  
 161 convening of the regular session of the Legislature with, the  
 162 chair of the conference shall report to the President of the  
 163 Senate and the Speaker of the House such recommendations as the  
 164 conference may have concerning defects in the laws of this state  
 165 and such amendments or additional legislation as the conference  
 166 may deem necessary regarding the administration of justice.

167 Section 10. Sections 27.50 and 27.55, Florida Statutes,  
 168 are repealed.

169 Section 11. Section 29.23, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 170 read:

171 29.23 Salaries of certain positions in the judicial  
 172 branch.-

173 (1) The salaries of justices, judges of the district  
 174 courts of appeal, circuit judges, and county judges shall be  
 175 fixed annually in the General Appropriations Act.

176 (2) The clerk and marshal of the Supreme Court or a clerk  
 177 or a marshal of a district court of appeal shall be paid an  
 178 annual salary to be determined in accordance with s. 25.382.

179 Section 12. Sections 35.12, 35.13, 35.19, and 35.21,  
 180 Florida Statutes, are repealed.

181 Section 13. Subsection (1) of section 35.22, Florida  
 182 Statutes, is amended to read:

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183 35.22 Clerk of district court; appointment; compensation;  
 184 assistants; filing fees; teleconferencing.-

185 ~~(1) Each district court of appeal shall appoint a clerk~~  
 186 ~~who shall be paid an annual salary to be determined in~~  
 187 ~~accordance with s. 25.382.~~

188 Section 14. Sections 35.25 and 35.27, Florida Statutes,  
 189 are repealed.

190 Section 15. Section 38.13, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

191 Section 16. Subsection (2) of section 43.20, Florida  
 192 Statutes, is amended to read:

193 43.20 Judicial Qualifications Commission.-

194 (2) MEMBERSHIP; TERMS.-The commission shall consist of 15  
 195 ~~13~~ members. The members of the commission shall serve for terms  
 196 of 6 years.

197 Section 17. Section 57.101, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

198 Section 18. Section 92.15, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

199 Section 19. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.