



# State of Tennessee

## PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 977

HOUSE BILL NO. 2002

By Representatives Farmer, Lamberth, Russell, Curtis Johnson, Eldridge, Glynn, Capley, Burkhart, Grills, Garrett, Carr, Todd, Sherrell, Faison

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2517

By Senators Niceley, Powers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 2, relative to judicial districts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-2-506(4)(A), is amended by redesignating the current language as subdivision (4)(A)(i) and adding the following language as a new subdivision (4)(A)(ii):

(ii) Effective September 1, 2024, there is created in the fourth judicial district one (1) additional circuit court to be designated as part V. The governor shall appoint a person to serve as judge of part V of the circuit court, and the person so appointed shall serve in that capacity until September 1, 2026, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. At the August 2026 general election, the qualified voters of the fourth judicial district shall elect, in accordance with § 16-2-505, a judge of part V of the circuit court to serve until September 1, 2030, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. Thereafter, the qualified voters of the fourth judicial district shall elect a judge of part V of the circuit court for a full eight-year term.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-2-506(19)(A), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision (19)(A)(ix):

(ix) Effective September 1, 2024, there is created an additional trial court in the nineteenth judicial district. The type of court, type of judge to preside over the court, and part of court shall be designated as provided in § 16-2-512. The governor shall appoint a person to serve as an additional judge or chancellor, and the person so appointed shall serve in that capacity until September 1, 2026, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. At the August 2026 general election, the qualified voters of the nineteenth judicial district shall elect, in accordance with § 16-2-505, an additional judge or chancellor to serve until September 1, 2030, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. Thereafter, the qualified voters of the nineteenth judicial district shall elect an additional judge or chancellor for a full eight-year term;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-2-506(30), is amended by adding the following as new subdivisions:

(C) Effective September 1, 2024, part VII of the circuit court in the thirtieth judicial district, which is vacant on September 1, 2024, is eliminated. Any cases pending in part VII of the circuit court on that date must be transferred to other circuit courts within the judicial district.

(D) On the effective date of this act, part IX of the criminal court in the thirtieth judicial district, which is vacant on that date, is eliminated. Any cases pending in part IX of the criminal court on that date must be transferred to other criminal courts within the judicial district.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-2-506(30), is amended by adding the following new subdivision:

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( ) Effective July 1, 2024, local rule shall address any identifiable backlog within the thirtieth judicial district by appropriately distributing cases, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 11;

SECTION 5. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 25, 2024



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 2024



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR