

SENATE BILL 2511

By Ketron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 2, relative to the sixteenth, twentieth, twenty-first, and thirtieth judicial districts.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-2-506(21)(A), is amended by designating the existing language as (21)(A)(i) and by adding the following new subdivisions:

(ii) Effective September 1, 2018, there is created an additional circuit court in the twenty-first judicial district to be designated as division V of the circuit court. The governor shall appoint a person to serve as judge of division V of the circuit court, and the person so appointed shall serve in that capacity until September 1, 2020, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. At the August 2020 general election, the qualified voters of the twenty-first judicial district shall elect, in accordance with § 16-2-505, one (1) person to serve as judge of division V of the circuit court. The person so elected at the August 2020 general election shall hold office until September 1, 2022, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. Thereafter, the judge of division V of the circuit court shall be elected for a full eight-year term.

(iii) To partially fund the judge for division V of the circuit court of the twenty-first judicial district created in subdivision (21)(A)(ii), a circuit or chancery court division in the twentieth judicial district shall be eliminated by no later than September 1, 2020. The local legislative body in Davidson County shall recommend to the chair of the senate judiciary committee and chairs of the civil justice and criminal justice committees of the house of representatives, by no later than January 1, 2019, which circuit or chancery court division of the twentieth judicial district is to be eliminated. If the local legislative

body fails to make such a selection by this date, then a joint committee composed of the members of the senate judiciary committee and house of representatives civil justice committee and criminal justice committee shall select which circuit or chancery court division of the twentieth judicial district is eliminated.

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

(iv) Effective September 1, 2018, there is created an additional trial court in the sixteenth 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 judge of division V of the circuit court, and the person so appointed shall serve in that capacity until September 1, 2020, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. The person elected at that time shall serve until September 1, 2022, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. At the August 2022 general election, and every eight (8) years thereafter, the qualified voters of the sixteenth judicial district shall elect an additional judge or chancellor for a full eight-year term.

(v) To partially fund the judge or chancellor for the sixteenth judicial district created in subdivision (16)(A)(iv), a circuit or chancery court division in the thirtieth judicial district shall be eliminated by no later than September 1, 2020. The local legislative body in Shelby County shall recommend to the chair of the senate judiciary committee and chairs of the civil justice and criminal justice committees of the house of representatives, by no later than January 1, 2019, which circuit or chancery court division of the twentieth judicial district is to be eliminated. If the local legislative body fails to make such a selection by this date, then a joint committee composed of the members of the senate judiciary committee and house of representatives civil justice committee and criminal justice committee shall select which circuit or chancery court division of the thirtieth judicial district is eliminated.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.