

1 SB173  
2 216617-1  
3 By Senators Whatley and Price  
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund  
5 First Read: 02-FEB-22

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, there are currently 146 circuit judgeships in the state.

This bill would create additional circuit judgeships in various judicial circuits throughout the state.

Under existing law, there are currently 106 district judgeships in the state.

This bill would create additional district judgeships in various counties throughout the state.

This bill would also provide for the authority of the judges and for the compensation and benefits of the judges.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to courts; to provide for additional circuit judgeships in various judicial circuits throughout the

1 state; to provide for additional district judgeships in  
2 various counties throughout the state; and to provide for the  
3 authority of the judges and for the compensation and benefit  
4 of the judges.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

6 Section 1. (a) (1) There is created an additional  
7 circuit judgeship for the Fifth Judicial Circuit which shall  
8 be designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 4.

9 (2) There is created an additional circuit judgeship  
10 for the Sixth Judicial Circuit which shall be designated as  
11 Circuit Judgeship Number 7.

12 (3) There is created an additional circuit judgeship  
13 for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit which shall be designated as  
14 Circuit Judgeship Number 4.

15 (4) There are created two additional circuit  
16 judgeships for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit which shall be  
17 designated as Circuit Judgeships Number 12 and 13.

18 (5) There are created two additional circuit  
19 judgeships for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit which shall be  
20 designated as Circuit Judgeships Number 4 and 5. The judges  
21 appointed or elected to Judgeships Number 4 and 5 may reside  
22 in any county within the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit.

23 (6) There are created three additional circuit  
24 judgeships for the Twenty-third Judicial Circuit which shall  
25 be designated as Circuit Judgeships Number 8, 9, and 10.

1           (7) There are created two additional circuit  
2 judgeships for the Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit which shall  
3 be designated as Circuit Judgeships Number 6 and 7.

4           (8) There is created an additional circuit judgeship  
5 for the Thirty-seventh Judicial Circuit which shall be  
6 designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 4.

7           (b) Circuit Judgeship Number 4 in the Fifth Judicial  
8 Circuit, Circuit Judgeship Number 7 in the Sixth Judicial  
9 Circuit, Circuit Judgeship Number 4 in the Eleventh Judicial  
10 Circuit, Circuit Judgeships Number 12 and 13 in the Thirteenth  
11 Judicial Circuit, Circuit Judgeships Number 4 and 5 in the  
12 Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, Circuit Judgeships Number 8, 9,  
13 and 10 in the Twenty-third Judicial Circuit, Circuit  
14 Judgeships Number 6 and 7 in the Twenty-eighth Judicial  
15 Circuit, and Circuit Judgeship Number 4 in the Thirty-seventh  
16 Judicial Circuit shall be filled in accordance with the law in  
17 effect on January 1, 2023.

18           (c) The initial judges appointed or elected to the  
19 additional circuit judgeships created pursuant to subsection  
20 (a) shall serve pursuant to Section 153 of the Constitution of  
21 Alabama of 1901.

22           (d) The initial judges appointed or elected to the  
23 additional circuit judgeships created pursuant to subsection  
24 (a) shall have and shall exercise all the jurisdiction, power,  
25 rights, and authority and shall possess all of the  
26 qualifications, perform all of the duties, and shall be

1 subject to all of the responsibilities and duties of the  
2 office to which other circuit judges are subject.

3 (e) The annual compensation of the additional  
4 circuit judges appointed or elected pursuant to subsection (a)  
5 shall be in accordance with Chapter 10A of Title 12, Code of  
6 Alabama 1975, including, but not limited to, the provision  
7 that no circuit judge first appointed or elected to office  
8 after October 1, 2001, shall be provided a salary supplement  
9 or expense allowance.

10 Section 2. (a) (1) There is created an additional  
11 district judgeship in the District Court of Baldwin County  
12 which shall be designated as District Judgeship Number 3.

13 (2) There is created an additional district  
14 judgeship in the District Court of Cullman County which shall  
15 be designated as District Judgeship Number 3.

16 (3) There is created an additional district  
17 judgeship in the District Court of DeKalb County which shall  
18 be designated as District Judgeship Number 2.

19 (4) There is created an additional district  
20 judgeship in the District Court of Etowah County which shall  
21 be designated as District Judgeship Number 3.

22 (5) There is created an additional district  
23 judgeship in the District Court of Madison County which shall  
24 be designated as District Judgeship Number 5.

25 (6) There is created an additional district  
26 judgeship in the District Court of Mobile County which shall  
27 be designated as District Judgeship Number 6.

1           (7) There is created an additional district  
2 judgeship in the District Court of Shelby County which shall  
3 be designated as District Judgeship Number 3.

4           (8) There is created an additional district  
5 judgeship in the District Court of Tuscaloosa County which  
6 shall be designated as District Judgeship Number 3.

7           (b) District Judgeship Number 3 in Baldwin County,  
8 District Judgeship Number 3 in Cullman County, District  
9 Judgeship Number 2 in DeKalb County, District Judgeship Number  
10 3 in Etowah County, District Judgeship Number 5 in Madison  
11 County, District Judgeship Number 6 in Mobile County, District  
12 Judgeship Number 3 in Shelby County, and District Judgeship  
13 Number 3 in Tuscaloosa County shall be filled in accordance  
14 with the law in effect on January 1, 2023.

15           (c) The initial judges appointed or elected to the  
16 additional district judgeships pursuant to subsection (a)  
17 shall serve pursuant to Section 153 of the Constitution of  
18 Alabama of 1901.

19           (d) The initial judges appointed or elected to the  
20 additional district judgeships created pursuant to subsection  
21 (a) shall have and shall exercise all the jurisdiction, power,  
22 rights, and authority and shall possess all of the  
23 qualifications, perform all of the duties, and shall be  
24 subject to all of the responsibilities and duties of the  
25 office to which other circuit judges are subject.

26           (e) The annual compensation of the additional  
27 district judges appointed or elected pursuant to subsection

1 (a) shall be in accordance with Chapter 10A of Title 12, Code  
2 of Alabama 1975, including, but not limited to, the provision  
3 that no district judge first appointed or elected to office  
4 after October 1, 2001, shall be provided a salary supplement  
5 or expense allowance.

6 Section 3. This act shall become effective January  
7 1, 2023, following its passage and approval by the Governor,  
8 or its otherwise becoming law.