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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would create four additional circuit judgeships and three additional district judgeships, to be elected in the 2024 General Election, as follows: An additional circuit judgeship, designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 4, in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit comprised of Lauderdale County; an additional circuit judgeship, designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 4, in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit comprised of Autauga, Chilton, and Elmore Counties; an additional circuit judgeship, designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 9, in the Twenty-third Judicial Circuit comprised of Madison County; an additional circuit judgeship, designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 6, in the Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit comprised of Baldwin County; an additional district judgeship, designated as District Judgeship Number 3, in Baldwin County; an additional district judgeship, designated as District Judgeship Number 2, in DeKalb County; and an additional district judgeship, designated as District Judgeship Number 6, in Mobile County.

This bill would create four additional circuit judgeships and two additional district judgeships, to be elected in the 2026 General Election, as follows: An additional circuit judgeship, designated as Circuit



29           Judgeship Number 7, in the Sixth Judicial Circuit  
30           comprised of Tuscaloosa County; an additional circuit  
31           judgeship, designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 5, in  
32           the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit comprised of Autauga,       
33           Chilton, and Elmore Counties; an additional circuit  
34           judgeship, designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 7, in  
35           the Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit comprised of Baldwin  
36           County; an additional circuit judgeship, designated as  
37           Circuit Judgeship Number 4, in the Thirty-seventh  
38           Judicial Circuit comprised of Lee County; an additional  
39           district judgeship, designated as District Judgeship  
40           Number 5, in Madison County; and an additional district  
41           judgeship, designated as District Judgeship Number 3,  
42           in Shelby County.

43                         This bill would provide for the authority of the  
44           judges and for the compensation and benefits of the  
45           judges.

46                         This bill would prohibit the Judicial Resources  
47           Allocation Commission from reallocating any vacant  
48           judgeships until January 1, 2027.

49                         This bill would require the Administrative  
50           Office of Courts to provide certain statistical data  
51           annually.

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A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT



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Relating to judges; to provide for additional circuit judgeships and additional district judgeships; to provide for the authority of the judges and for the compensation and benefits of the judges; to prohibit the Judicial Resources Allocation Commission from reallocating any vacant judgeships until January 1, 2027; and to require the Administrative Office of Courts to provide certain statistical data annually.  
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

(2) There is created an additional circuit judgeship for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit which shall be designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 4. The judge elected to Judgeship Number 4 may reside in any county within the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit. The judge occupying Judgeship Number 4 shall be assigned to the domestic relations division of the circuit.

(3) There is created an additional circuit judgeship for the Twenty-third Judicial Circuit which shall be designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 9.

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

(5) There is created an additional district judgeship for Baldwin County which shall be designated as District Judgeship Number 3.

(6) There is created an additional district judgeship



85 for DeKalb County which shall be designated as District  
86 Judgeship Number 2.

87 (7) There is created an additional district judgeship  
88 for Mobile County which shall be designated as District  
89 Judgeship Number 6.

90 (b) The additional judgeships created pursuant to  
91 subsection (a) shall be filled at the 2024 General Election.

92 (c) The initial judges elected to the additional  
93 judgeships created pursuant to subsection (a) shall serve for  
94 a six-year term holding office from the first Monday following  
95 the second Tuesday in January after the general election at  
96 which the judges are elected.

97 (d) The initial judges elected to the additional  
98 judgeships created pursuant to subsection (a) shall have and  
99 shall exercise all the jurisdiction, power, rights, and  
100 authority and shall possess all of the qualifications, perform  
101 all of the duties, and shall be subject to all of the  
102 responsibilities and duties of the office to which other  
103 judges are subject.

104 (e) The annual compensation of the additional judges  
105 elected pursuant to subsection (a) shall be in accordance with  
106 Chapter 10B of Title 12, Code of Alabama 1975, including, but  
107 not limited to, the provision that no judge first elected or  
108 appointed to office after October 1, 2021, may be provided a  
109 salary supplement or expense allowance.

110 Section 2. (a) (1) There is created an additional  
111 circuit judgeship for the Sixth Judicial Circuit which shall  
112 be designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 7.



113           (2) There is created an additional circuit judgeship  
114 for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit which shall be designated  
115 as Circuit Judgeship Number 5. The judge elected to Judgeship  
116 Number 5 may reside in any county within the Nineteenth  
117 Judicial Circuit.

118           (3) There is created an additional circuit judgeship  
119 for the Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit which shall be  
120 designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 7.

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

124           (5) There is created an additional district judgeship  
125 for Madison County which shall be designated as District  
126 Judgeship Number 5.

127           (6) There is created an additional district judgeship  
128 for Shelby County which shall be designated as District  
129 Judgeship Number 3.

130           (b) The additional judgeships created pursuant to  
131 subsection (a) shall be filled at the 2026 General Election.

132           (c) The initial judges elected to the additional  
133 judgeships created pursuant to subsection (a) shall serve for  
134 a six-year term holding office from the first Monday following  
135 the second Tuesday in January after the general election at  
136 which the judges are elected.

137           (d) The initial judges elected to the additional  
138 judgeships created pursuant to subsection (a) shall have and  
139 shall exercise all the jurisdiction, power, rights, and  
140 authority and shall possess all of the qualifications, perform



141 all of the duties, and shall be subject to all of the  
142 responsibilities and duties of the office to which other  
143 judges are subject.

144 (e) The annual compensation of the additional judges  
145 elected pursuant to subsection (a) shall be in accordance with  
146 Chapter 10B of Title 12, Code of Alabama 1975, including, but  
147 not limited to, the provision that no judge first elected or  
148 appointed to office after October 1, 2021, may be provided a  
149 salary supplement or expense allowance.

150 Section 3. Notwithstanding Section 12-9A-2, Code of  
151 Alabama 1975, or any other law to the contrary, a moratorium  
152 on the reallocation of judges by the Judicial Resources  
153 Allocation Commission for reallocating any vacant judgeships  
154 shall be in effect until January 1, 2027.

155 Section 4. (a) The Administrative Office of Courts  
156 shall provide the following statistics for each fiscal year by  
157 circuit as provided in subsection (b):

158 (1) Number of civil cases filed broken down by  
159 category.

160 (2) Number of civil cases resolved via a motion to  
161 dismiss or voluntary dismissal.

162 (3) Number of civil cases resolved via a motion for  
163 summary judgment.

164 (4) Number of civil cases in which a jury is empaneled.

165 (5) Number of civil cases tried to a jury verdict.

166 (6) Number of criminal cases filed broken down by type  
167 of offense.

168 (7) Number of total criminal counts filed broken down



169 by type of offense.

170 (8) Number of criminal cases resolved via dismissal.

171 (9) Number of criminal cases resolved via plea  
172 agreement.

173 (10) Number of criminal cases resolved via some form of  
174 pre-trial diversion or alternative resolution program.

175 (11) Number of criminal cases in which a jury is  
176 empaneled.

177 (12) Number of criminal cases tried to a jury verdict.

178 (13) Number of juvenile cases filed broken down by  
179 dependency and delinquency.

180 (14) Number of juvenile cases resolved.

181 (15) Number of domestic cases filed broken down by  
182 category.

183 (16) Number of domestic cases resolved.

184 (17) Number of probate cases appealed to the circuit  
185 court.

186 (18) Any other information or data deemed relevant by  
187 the Alabama Supreme Court.

188 (b) The information required in subsection (a) shall be  
189 provided to all of the following by January 15 of each year:

190 (1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

191 (2) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

192 (3) The chair of the Senate Finance and Taxation,  
193 General Fund Committee.

194 (4) The chair of the House Ways and Means General Fund  
195 Committee.

196 (5) The chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.



197 (6) The chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

198 (7) The Legislative Fiscal Officer.

199 (8) The chair of the Legislative Council.

200 (9) The vice chair of the Legislative Council.

201 (10) The Senate Minority Leader.

202 (11) The House Minority Leader.

203 Section 5. This act shall become effective immediately  
204 following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its  
205 otherwise becoming law.