

SB144 INTRODUCED



1 XQM2ZE-1
2 By Senator Barfoot
3 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund
4 First Read: 23-Mar-23
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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would create three additional circuit judgeships and two additional district judgeships to be funded out of the State General Fund in Fiscal Year 2024 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 6, in the Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit comprised of Baldwin County; an additional district judgeship, designated as District Judgeship Number 3, in Baldwin County; and an additional district judgeship, designated as District Judgeship Number 2, in DeKalb County.

This bill would create three additional circuit judgeships and two additional district judgeships to be funded out of the State General Fund in Fiscal Year 2025 as follows: an additional circuit judgeship, designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 7, in the Sixth Judicial Circuit comprised of Tuscaloosa County; an additional circuit judgeship, designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 9, in the Twenty-third Judicial



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29 Circuit comprised of Madison County; an additional
30 circuit judgeship, designated as Circuit Judgeship
31 Number 4, in the Thirty-seventh Judicial Circuit
32 comprised of Lee County; an additional district
33 judgeship, designated as District Judgeship Number 6,
34 in Mobile County; and an additional district judgeship,
35 designated as District Judgeship Number 3, in Shelby
36 County.

37 This bill would create two additional circuit
38 judgeships and one additional district judgeship to be
39 funded out of the State General Fund in Fiscal Year
40 2026 as follows: an additional circuit judgeship,
41 designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 5, in the
42 Nineteenth Judicial Circuit comprised of Autauga,
43 Chilton, and Elmore Counties; an additional circuit
44 judgeship, designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 7, in
45 the Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit comprised of Baldwin
46 County; and an additional district judgeship,
47 designated as District Judgeship Number 5, in Madison
48 County.

49 This bill would provide for the authority of the
50 judges and for the compensation and benefits of the
51 judges.

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A BILL

55

TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT



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58 To provide for additional circuit judgeships and
59 additional district judgeships to be funded out of the State
60 General Fund in Fiscal Years 2024, 2025, and 2026; and to
61 provide for the authority of the judges and for the
62 compensation and benefits of the judges.

63 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

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

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

79 (5) There is created an additional district judgeship
80 for DeKalb County which shall be designated as District
81 Judgeship Number 2.

82 (b) The additional judgeships created pursuant to
83 subsection (a) shall be filled at the next general election
84 after the effective date of this act.



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85 (c) The initial judges elected to the additional
86 judgeships created pursuant to subsection (a) shall serve for
87 a six-year term holding office from the first Monday following
88 the second Tuesday in January after the general election at
89 which the judges are elected.

90 (d) The initial judges elected to the additional
91 judgeships created pursuant to subsection (a) shall have and
92 shall exercise all the jurisdiction, power, rights, and
93 authority and shall possess all of the qualifications, perform
94 all of the duties, and shall be subject to all of the
95 responsibilities and duties of the office to which other
96 judges are subject.

97 (e) The annual compensation of the additional judges
98 elected pursuant to subsection (a) shall be in accordance with
99 Chapter 10A of Title 12, Code of Alabama 1975, including, but
100 not limited to, the provision that no judge first elected or
101 appointed to office after October 1, 2001, may be provided a
102 salary supplement or expense allowance.

103 (f) Funding for the additional judgeships created
104 pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made from the State
105 General Fund appropriation to the Unified Judicial System
106 commencing in Fiscal Year 2024.

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

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



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113 (3) There is created an additional circuit judgeship
114 for the Thirty-seventh Judicial Circuit which shall be
115 designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 4.

116 (4) There is created an additional district judgeship
117 for Mobile County which shall be designated as District
118 Judgeship Number 6.

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

122 (b) The additional judgeships created pursuant to
123 subsection (a) shall be filled at the next general election
124 after the effective date of this act.

125 (c) The initial judges elected to the additional
126 judgeships created pursuant to subsection (a) shall serve for
127 a six-year term holding office from the first Monday following
128 the second Tuesday in January after the general election at
129 which the judges are elected.

130 (d) The initial judges elected to the additional
131 judgeships created pursuant to subsection (a) shall have and
132 shall exercise all the jurisdiction, power, rights, and
133 authority and shall possess all of the qualifications, perform
134 all of the duties, and shall be subject to all of the
135 responsibilities and duties of the office to which other
136 judges are subject.

137 (e) The annual compensation of the additional judges
138 elected pursuant to subsection (a) shall be in accordance with
139 Chapter 10A of Title 12, Code of Alabama 1975, including, but
140 not limited to, the provision that no judge first elected or



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141 appointed to office after October 1, 2001, may be provided a
142 salary supplement or expense allowance.

143 (f) Funding for the additional judgeships created
144 pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made from the State
145 General Fund appropriation to the Unified Judicial System
146 commencing in Fiscal Year 2025.

147 Section 3. (a) (1) There is created an additional
148 circuit judgeship for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit which
149 shall be designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 5. The judge
150 elected to Judgeship Number 5 may reside in any county within
151 the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit.

152 (2) There is created an additional circuit judgeship
153 for the Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit which shall be
154 designated as Circuit Judgeship Number 7.

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

158 (b) The additional judgeships created pursuant to
159 subsection (a) shall be filled at the next general election
160 after the effective date of this act.

161 (c) The initial judges elected to the additional
162 judgeships created pursuant to subsection (a) shall serve for
163 a six-year term holding office from the first Monday following
164 the second Tuesday in January after the general election at
165 which the judges are elected.

166 (d) The initial judges elected to the additional
167 judgeships created pursuant to subsection (a) shall have and
168 shall exercise all the jurisdiction, power, rights, and



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169 authority and shall possess all of the qualifications, perform
170 all of the duties, and shall be subject to all of the
171 responsibilities and duties of the office to which other
172 judges are subject.

173 (e) The annual compensation of the additional judges
174 elected pursuant to subsection (a) shall be in accordance with
175 Chapter 10A of Title 12, Code of Alabama 1975, including, but
176 not limited to, the provision that no judge first elected or
177 appointed to office after October 1, 2001, may be provided a
178 salary supplement or expense allowance.

179 (f) Funding for the additional judgeships created
180 pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made from the State
181 General Fund appropriation to the Unified Judicial System
182 commencing in Fiscal Year 2026.

183 Section 4. Section 1 shall become effective
184 immediately, Section 2 shall become effective October 1, 2024,
185 and Section 3 shall become effective October 1, 2025,
186 following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its
187 otherwise becoming law.