

AN ACT concerning courts.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Circuit Courts Act is amended by changing Sections 2, 2f-1, 2f-2, 2f-4, and 2f-5 as follows:

(705 ILCS 35/2) (from Ch. 37, par. 72.2)

Sec. 2. Circuit judges shall be elected at the general elections and for terms as provided in Article VI of the Illinois Constitution. Ninety-four circuit judges shall be elected in the Circuit of Cook County and 3 circuit judges shall be elected in each of the other circuits, but in circuits other than Cook County containing a population of 230,000 or more inhabitants and in which there is included a county containing a population of 200,000 or more inhabitants, or in circuits other than Cook County containing a population of 270,000 or more inhabitants, according to the last preceding federal census and in the circuit where the seat of State government is situated at the time fixed by law for the nomination of judges of the Circuit Court in such circuit and in any circuit which meets the requirements set out in Section 2a of this Act, 4 circuit judges shall be elected in the manner provided by law. In circuits other than Cook County in which each county in the circuit has a population of 475,000 or more, 4 circuit judges shall be elected in addition to the 4 circuit judges provided for in this Section. In any circuit composed of 2 counties having a total population of 350,000 or more, one circuit judge shall be elected in addition to the 4 circuit judges provided for in this Section.

Any additional circuit judgeships in the 19th and 22nd judicial circuits resulting by operation of this Section shall be filled, if at all, at the general election in 2006 only as provided in Section 2f-1. Thereafter, however, this Section

shall not apply to the determination of the number of circuit judgeships in the 19th and 22nd judicial circuits. The number of circuit judgeships in the 19th judicial circuit shall be determined thereafter in accordance with Section 2f-1 and Section 2f-2 and shall be reduced in accordance with those Sections. The number of circuit judgeships in the 22nd judicial circuit shall be determined thereafter in accordance with Section 2f-1 and Section 2f-5 and shall be reduced in accordance with those Sections.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section or any other law, the number of at large judgeships of the 12th judicial circuit may be reduced by one or 2 judgeships as provided in subsection (a-10) of Section 2f-4.

The several judges of the circuit courts of this State, before entering upon the duties of their office, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, which shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will support the constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the State of Illinois, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of judge of.... court, according to the best of my ability."

One of the 3 additional circuit judgeships authorized by this amendatory Act in circuits other than Cook County in which each county in the circuit has a population of 475,000 or more may be filled when this Act becomes law. The 2 remaining circuit judgeships in such circuits shall not be filled until on or after July 1, 1977.

(Source: P.A. 93-541, eff. 8-18-03.)

(705 ILCS 35/2f-1)

Sec. 2f-1. 19th and 22nd judicial circuits.

(a) On December 4, 2006, the 19th judicial circuit is divided into the 19th and 22nd judicial circuits as provided in Section 1 of the Circuit Courts Act. This division does not invalidate any action taken by the 19th judicial circuit or any

of its judges, officers, employees, or agents before December 4, 2006. This division does not affect any person's rights, obligations, or duties, including applicable civil and criminal penalties, arising out of any action taken by the 19th judicial circuit or any of its judges, officers, employees, or agents before December 4, 2006.

(b) Of the 7 circuit judgeships elected at large in the 19th circuit before the general election in 2006, the Supreme Court shall assign 5 to the 19th circuit and 2 to the 22nd circuit, based on residency of the circuit judges then holding those judgeships. The 5 assigned to the 19th circuit shall continue to be elected at large. The 2 assigned to the 22nd circuit shall continue to be elected at large.

(b-5) Except as provided in subsection (b-10), the number of at large judgeships of the 19th judicial circuit shall be the number of at large judgeships assigned to the 19th judicial circuit pursuant to subsection (b) plus only the judgeship designated as vacancy A by the State Board of Elections filled at the 2006 general election. If, before, on, or after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly, the State Board of Elections has certified or certifies one or more candidates for a judgeship of the 19th judicial circuit designated as vacancy B or C by the State Board of Elections, then all such certifications are revoked and are null and void by operation of law and the names of any such candidates shall not appear upon the 2006 general primary ballot or the 2006 general election ballot for any of those judgeships. Except as provided in subsection (b-10), the number of at large judgeships of the 22nd judicial circuit shall be the number of at large judgeships assigned to the 22nd judicial circuit pursuant to subsection (b) plus only the judgeship designated as vacancy A by the State Board of Elections filled at the 2006 general election. If, before, on, or after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly, the State Board of Elections has certified or certifies one or more candidates for the judgeship of the 22nd

judicial circuit designated as vacancy B by the State Board of Elections, then any such certifications are revoked and are null and void by operation of law and the names of any such candidates shall not appear upon the 2006 general primary ballot or the 2006 general election ballot for that judgeship.

(b-10) If this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly is held unconstitutional and as a result the judgeships designated by the State Board of Elections as vacancies A, B, and C of the 19th judicial circuit are filled at the 2006 general election, then the number of at large judgeships of the 19th judicial circuit shall be only the number of at large judgeships assigned to the 19th judicial circuit pursuant to subsection (b). If this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly is held unconstitutional and as a result the judgeships designated by the State Board of Elections as vacancies A and B of the 22nd judicial circuit are filled at the 2006 general election, then the number of at large judgeships of the 22nd judicial circuit shall be only the number of at large judgeships assigned to the 22nd judicial circuit pursuant to subsection (b).

(b-15) If subsection (b-10) applies, then each vacancy occurring in an at large judgeship of the 19th judicial circuit on or after the holding of unconstitutionality shall not be filled by any means and each of those vacant judgeships is abolished, until the number of at large judgeships of the 19th judicial circuit returns to the number of at large judgeships specified for the 19th judicial circuit by subsection (b-10). If subsection (b-10) applies, then each vacancy occurring in an at large judgeship of the 22nd judicial circuit on or after the holding of unconstitutionality shall not be filled by any means and each of those vacant judgeships is abolished, until the number of at large judgeships of the 22nd judicial circuit returns to the number of at large judgeships specified for the 22nd judicial circuit by subsection (b-10).

(c) The 6 resident judgeships elected from Lake County before the general election in 2006 shall become resident

judgeships in the 19th circuit on December 4, 2006, and the 3 resident judgeships elected from McHenry County before the general election in 2006 shall become resident judgeships in the 22nd circuit on December 4, 2006.

(d) On December 4, 2006, the Supreme Court shall allocate the associate judgeships of the 19th circuit before that date between the 19th and 22nd circuits based on the residency of the associate judges; however, the number of associate judges allocated to the 19th circuit shall be no less than the number of associate judges residing in Lake County on March 22, 2004.

(e) On December 4, 2006, the Supreme Court shall allocate personnel, books, records, documents, property (real and personal), funds, assets, liabilities, and pending matters concerning the 19th circuit before that date between the 19th and 22nd circuits based on the population and staffing needs of those circuits and the efficient and proper administration of the judicial system. The rights of employees under applicable collective bargaining agreements are not affected by this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly.

(f) The judgeships set forth in this Section include the judgeships authorized under Sections 2g, 2h, and 2j. The judgeships authorized in those Sections are not in addition to those set forth in this Section.

(Source: P.A. 93-541, eff. 8-18-03; 93-1040, eff. 9-28-04.)

(705 ILCS 35/2f-2)

Sec. 2f-2. 19th judicial circuit; subcircuits.

(a) The 19th circuit shall be divided into 6 subcircuits. The subcircuits shall be compact, contiguous, and substantially equal in population. The General Assembly by law shall create the subcircuits, using population data as determined by the 2000 federal census, and shall determine a numerical order for the 6 subcircuits. That numerical order shall be the basis for the order in which resident judgeships are assigned to the subcircuits. Once a resident judgeship is assigned to a subcircuit, it shall continue to be assigned to

that subcircuit for all purposes.

(b) The 19th circuit shall have a total of 6 resident judgeships. The number of resident judgeships allotted to subcircuits of the 19th judicial circuit pursuant to this Section shall constitute all the resident judgeships of the 19th judicial circuit.

(c) The Supreme Court shall allot (i) all vacancies in resident judgeships of the 19th circuit existing on or occurring on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly and not filled at the 2004 general election and (ii) the resident judgeships of the 19th circuit filled at the 2004 general election as those judgeships thereafter become vacant, for election from the various subcircuits until there is one resident judge to be elected from each subcircuit. No resident judge of the 19th circuit serving on the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly shall be required to change his or her residency in order to continue serving in office or to seek retention in office as resident judgeships are allotted by the Supreme Court in accordance with this Section.

(d) A resident judge elected from a subcircuit shall continue to reside in that subcircuit as long as he or she holds that office.

(e) Vacancies in resident judgeships of the 19th circuit shall be filled in the manner provided in Article VI of the Illinois Constitution.

(Source: P.A. 93-541, eff. 8-18-03; 93-1040, eff. 9-28-04; 93-1102, eff. 4-7-05.)

(705 ILCS 35/2f-4)

Sec. 2f-4. 12th circuit; subcircuits; additional judges.

(a) The 12th circuit shall be divided into 5 subcircuits. The subcircuits shall be compact, contiguous, and substantially equal in population. The General Assembly by law shall create the subcircuits, using population data as determined by the 2000 federal census, and shall determine a

numerical order for the 5 subcircuits. That numerical order shall be the basis for the order in which resident judgeships are assigned to the subcircuits. Once a resident judgeship is assigned to a subcircuit, it shall continue to be assigned to that subcircuit for all purposes.

(a-10) The first vacancy in the 12th judicial circuit's 10 existing circuit judgeships (8 at large and 2 resident), but not in the additional judgeships described in subsections (b) and (b-5), that exists on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly shall not be filled, by appointment or election, and that judgeship is eliminated. Of the 12th judicial circuit's 10 existing circuit judgeships (8 at large and 2 resident), but not the additional judgeships described in subsections (b) and (b-5), the second to be vacant or become vacant on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly shall be allotted as a 12th circuit resident judgeship under subsection (c). ~~Of the 12th circuit's 10 existing circuit judgeships (8 at large and 2 resident), 2 shall be allotted as 12th circuit resident judgeships under subsection (c) as the first 2 of any of those at large and resident judgeships become vacant on or after August 18, 2003.~~ As used in this subsection, a vacancy does not include the expiration of a term of an at large or resident judge who seeks retention in that office at the next term.

(b) The 12th circuit shall have 3 additional resident judgeships, as well as its ~~2~~ existing resident judgeship or judgeships, and existing ~~8~~ at large judgeships, for a total of 12 ~~13~~ judgeships available to be allotted under subsection (c) to the 5 subcircuit resident judgeships. The additional resident judgeship created by Public Act 93-541 shall be filled by election beginning at the general election in 2006. The 2 additional resident judgeships created by this amendatory Act of 2004 shall be filled by election beginning at the general election in 2008. After the subcircuits are created by law, the Supreme Court may fill by appointment the additional resident

judgeships created by Public Act 93-541 and this amendatory Act of 2004 until the 2006 or 2008 general election, as the case may be.

(b-5) In addition to the number of circuit judges and resident judges otherwise authorized by law, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning on April 1, 2006 there shall be one additional resident judge who is a resident of and elected from the fourth judicial subcircuit of the 12th judicial circuit. That additional resident judgeship may be filled by appointment by the Supreme Court until filled by election at the general election in 2008, regardless of whether the judgeships for subcircuits 1, 2, and 3 have been filled.

(c) The Supreme Court shall allot (i) the additional resident judgeships of the 12th circuit created by Public Act 93-541 and this amendatory Act of 2004, and (ii) the second vacancy ~~first 2 vacancies~~ in the at large and resident judgeships of the 12th circuit as provided in subsection (a-10), for election from the various subcircuits until, with the additional judge of the fourth subcircuit described in subsection (b-5), there is one resident judge to be elected from each subcircuit. No at large or resident judge of the 12th circuit serving on August 18, 2003 shall be required to change his or her residency in order to continue serving in office or to seek retention in office as at large or resident judgeships are allotted by the Supreme Court in accordance with this Section.

(d) A resident judge elected from a subcircuit shall continue to reside in that subcircuit as long as he or she holds that office.

(e) Vacancies in resident judgeships of the 12th circuit shall be filled in the manner provided in Article VI of the Illinois Constitution.

(Source: P.A. 93-541, eff. 8-18-03; 93-1040, eff. 9-28-04; 93-1102, eff. 4-7-05.)

(705 ILCS 35/2f-5)

Sec. 2f-5. 22nd circuit; subcircuits; additional resident judgeship.

(a) The 22nd circuit shall be divided into 4 subcircuits. The subcircuits shall be compact, contiguous, and substantially equal in population. The General Assembly by law shall create the subcircuits, using population data as determined by the 2000 federal census, and shall determine a numerical order for the 4 subcircuits. That numerical order shall be the basis for the order in which resident judgeships are assigned to the subcircuits. Once a resident judgeship is assigned to a subcircuit, it shall continue to be assigned to that subcircuit for all purposes.

(b) The 22nd circuit shall have one additional resident judgeship, as well as its 3 existing resident judgeships, for a total of 4 resident judgeships to be allotted to the 4 subcircuit resident judgeships. The additional resident judgeship created by this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly shall be filled by election beginning at the general election in 2006 and shall not be filled by appointment before the general election in 2006. The number of resident judgeships allotted to subcircuits of the 22nd judicial circuit pursuant to this Section shall constitute all the resident judgeships of the 22nd judicial circuit.

(c) The Supreme Court shall allot (i) all vacancies in resident judgeships of the 22nd circuit existing on or occurring on or after August 18, 2003 and not filled at the 2004 general election, (ii) the resident judgeships of the 22nd circuit filled at the 2004 general election as those judgeships thereafter become vacant, and (iii) the additional resident judgeship of the 22nd circuit created by this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly, for election from the various subcircuits until there is one resident judge to be elected from each subcircuit. No resident judge of the 22nd circuit serving on August 18, 2003 shall be required to change his or her residency in order to continue serving in office or to seek

retention in office as resident judgeships are allotted by the Supreme Court in accordance with this Section.

(d) A resident judge elected from a subcircuit shall continue to reside in that subcircuit as long as he or she holds that office.

(e) Vacancies in resident judgeships of the 22nd circuit shall be filled in the manner provided in Article VI of the Illinois Constitution.

(Source: P.A. 93-541, eff. 8-18-03; 93-1040, eff. 9-28-04; 93-1102, eff. 4-7-05.)

Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this Act are severable under Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes.

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.