

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: March 24, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Jury Districts/Boundaries

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>Harkins</u>	<u>Moody</u>	<u>JU</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>CA</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The bill provides that jury districts may be created by the chief judge of a circuit upon approval of a majority of the county commissioners. The creation of a jury district may be initiated at the request of the chief judge or at the request of a majority of the county commissioners.

The bill amends sections 40.015(1) and (2) of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Under the present law, counties which have populations exceeding 50,000 with one or more locations, in addition to the county seat, at which trials are held may create jury districts for each courthouse location. s. 40.015, F.S. The jury districts are created by the chief judge upon approval of a majority of the circuit court judges of the circuit. *Id.*

Under the current law, chief judges, in determining the boundaries of judicial districts, must seek to avoid exclusion of any cognizable group. s. 40.015, F.S.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill revises the method for creating jury districts. Under this bill, jury districts may be created by the chief judge at the approval of a majority of the county commissioners. Either the chief judge or a majority of the county commissioner may initiate the creation of jury districts. Under the present method, jury districts are created by the chief judges upon approval of a majority of the circuit judges. County commissioners neither initiate or approve the creation of jury districts under the current law.

The bill requires the chief judge and the board of county commissioners who create jury districts to seek to avoid exclusion of any cognizable group.

The act takes effect upon becoming law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
