Bill No. CS/HB 7027 (2022)

Amendment No.

CHAMBER	ACTION

Senate

House

The Conference Committee on CS/HB 7027 offered the following:

### Conference Committee Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Effective January 1, 2023, paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 27.51, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8

1 2 3

4

5

6

7

27.51 Duties of public defender.-

9 (4) The public defender for the judicial circuit specified 10 in this subsection shall, after the record on appeal is 11 transmitted to the appellate court by the office of the public 12 defender which handled the trial and if requested by any public 13 defender within the indicated appellate district, handle all 181179

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14 circuit court and county court appeals within the state courts 15 system and any authorized appeals to the federal courts required 16 of the official making such request:

(b) Public defender of the tenth judicial circuit, on
behalf of any public defender within the <u>districts</u> <del>district</del>
comprising the Second District Court of Appeal <u>and Sixth</u>
District Court of Appeal.

21 Section 2. Effective January 1, 2023, subsection (1) of 22 section 27.511, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

23 27.511 Offices of criminal conflict and civil regional 24 counsel; legislative intent; qualifications; appointment; 25 duties.-

26 (1)It is the intent of the Legislature to provide 27 adequate representation to persons entitled to court-appointed 28 counsel under the Federal or State Constitution or as authorized 29 by general law. It is the further intent of the Legislature to 30 provide adequate representation in a fiscally sound manner, while safeguarding constitutional principles. Therefore, an 31 32 office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel is 33 created within the geographic boundaries of each of the five 34 regions of the state district courts of appeal. The regional 35 counsel shall be appointed as set forth in subsection (3) for 36 each of the five regional offices. For the purposes of an office 37 of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, the state is

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38	divided into five geographic regions by judicial circuit as
39	follows:
40	(a) The first region consists of the first, second, third,
41	fourth, eighth, and fourteenth circuits.
42	(b) The second region consists of the sixth, tenth,
43	twelfth, thirteenth, and twentieth circuits.
44	(c) The third region consists of the eleventh and
45	sixteenth circuits.
46	(d) The fourth region consists of the fifteenth,
47	seventeenth, and nineteenth circuits.
48	(e) The fifth region consists of the fifth, seventh,
49	ninth, and eighteenth circuits.
50	Section 3. Effective July 1, 2022, subsection (34) of
51	section 34.022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
52	34.022 Number of county court judges for each countyThe
53	number of county court judges in each county shall be as
54	follows:
55	COUNTY TOTAL
56	(34) Lake
57	Section 4. Effective January 1, 2023, section 35.01,
58	Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
59	35.01 District courts of appeal; districts.— <u>Six</u> <del>Five</del>
60	district courts of appeal are created, and the state is divided
61	into $\underline{six}$ five appellate districts of contiguous circuits.
62	
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63 Section 5. Effective January 1, 2023, section 35.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 64 65 35.02 First Appellate District.-The First Appellate District is composed of the First, Second, Third, Fourth, 66 67 Eighth, and Fourteenth Judicial Circuits. 68 Section 6. Effective January 1, 2023, section 35.03, 69 Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 70 35.03 Second Appellate District.-The Second Appellate 71 District is composed of the Sixth, Tenth, Twelfth, and 72 Thirteenth, and Twentieth Judicial Circuits. 73 Section 7. Effective January 1, 2023, section 35.043, 74 Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 75 35.043 Fifth Appellate District.-The Fifth Appellate 76 District is composed of the Fourth, Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, and 77 Eighteenth Judicial Circuits. 78 Section 8. Effective January 1, 2023, section 35.044, 79 Florida Statutes, is created to read: 80 35.044 Sixth Appellate District.-The Sixth Appellate 81 District is composed of the Ninth, Tenth, and Twentieth Judicial 82 Circuits. Section 9. Effective January 1, 2023, subsection (1) of 83 section 35.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 84 85 35.05 Headquarters.-86 The headquarters of the First Appellate District shall (1)be in the Second Judicial Circuit, Tallahassee, Leon County; of 87 181179 Approved For Filing: 3/10/2022 9:37:46 PM

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88 the Second Appellate District in the Sixth Tenth Judicial Circuit, Pinellas Lakeland, Polk County; of the Third Appellate 89 90 District in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Miami-Dade County; of the Fourth Appellate District in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, 91 92 Palm Beach County; of and the Fifth Appellate District in the 93 Seventh Judicial Circuit, Daytona Beach, Volusia County; and of 94 the Sixth Appellate District in the Tenth Judicial Circuit, 95 Lakeland, Polk County. Although each district must have a 96 headquarters as set forth in this subsection, the Legislature 97 intends for policies and practices to be implemented to encourage top applicants for judicial vacancies from throughout 98 99 each entire district and to provide opportunities for remote 100 workplaces for judges and staff who may not live near the 101 headquarters of the district. Further, it is the intent of the 102 Legislature to ensure that the district courts operate as 103 efficiently as possible through the use of leading technologies 104 and by adopting policies and practices that encourage innovation 105 and workforce flexibility. 106 Section 10. Effective January 1, 2023, section 35.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 107 108 35.06 Organization of district courts of appeal.-A 109 district court of appeal shall be organized in each of the six 110 five appellate districts to be named District Court of Appeal, 111 .... District. The number of judges of each district court of appeal shall be as follows: 112 181179

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113	(1) In the first district there shall be $\underline{13}$ $\underline{15}$ judges.
114	(2) In the second district there shall be $15 + 6$ judges.
115	(3) In the third district there shall be 10 judges.
116	(4) In the fourth district there shall be 12 judges.
117	(5) In the fifth district there shall be $\underline{12}$ $\underline{11}$ judges.
118	(6) In the sixth district there shall be 9 judges.
119	Section 11. Effective January 1, 2023, paragraph (b) of
120	subsection (2) of section 440.45, Florida Statutes, is amended
121	to read:
122	440.45 Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims
123	(2)
124	(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c), the Governor
125	shall appoint a judge of compensation claims from a list of
126	three persons nominated by a statewide nominating commission.
127	The statewide nominating commission shall be composed of the
128	following:
129	1. <u>Six</u> Five members, at least one of whom must be a member
130	of a minority group as defined in s. 288.703, one of each who
131	resides in each of the territorial jurisdictions of the district
132	courts of appeal, appointed by the Board of Governors of The
133	Florida Bar from among The Florida Bar members <del>who are</del> engaged
134	in the practice of law. <del>The Board of Governors shall appoint</del>
135	members who reside in the odd-numbered district court of appeal
136	jurisdictions to 4-year terms each, beginning July 1, 1999, and
137	members who reside in the even-numbered district court of appeal
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jurisdictions to 2-year terms each, beginning July 1, 1999. 1.38 139 Thereafter, Each member shall be appointed for a 4-year term; 140 2. Six Five electors, at least one of whom must be a 141 member of a minority group as defined in s. 288.703, one of each 142 who resides in each of the territorial jurisdictions of the 143 district courts of appeal, appointed by the Governor. The 144 Governor shall appoint members who reside in the odd-numbered 145 district court of appeal jurisdictions to 2-year terms each, beginning July 1, 1999, and members who reside in the even-146 147 numbered district court of appeal jurisdictions to 4-year terms each, beginning July 1, 1999. Thereafter, Each member shall be 148 149 appointed for a 4-year term; and 150 3. Six Five electors, at least one of whom must be a 151 member of a minority group as defined in s. 288.703, one of each 152 who resides in the territorial jurisdictions of the district 153 courts of appeal, selected and appointed by a majority vote of 154 the other 10 members of the commission. A majority of the other

153 courts of appeal, selected and appointed by a majority vote of 154 the other 10 members of the commission. A majority of the other 155 members of the commission shall appoint members who reside in 156 the odd-numbered district court of appeal jurisdictions to 2-157 year terms each, beginning October 1, 1999, and members who 158 reside in the even-numbered district court of appeal 159 jurisdictions to 4-year terms each, beginning October 1, 1999. 160 Thereafter, Each member shall be appointed for a 4-year term. 161

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A vacancy occurring on the commission shall be filled by the original appointing authority for the unexpired balance of the term. <u>An</u> No attorney who appears before any judge of compensation claims more than four times a year is <u>not</u> eligible to serve on the statewide nominating commission. The meetings and determinations of the nominating commission as to the judges of compensation claims shall be open to the public.

169 Section 12. Effective January 1, 2023, for the purpose of 170 incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 35.05, 171 Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of 172 section 29.008, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

173

29.008 County funding of court-related functions.-

174 Counties are required by s. 14, Art. V of the State (1)175 Constitution to fund the cost of communications services, 176 existing radio systems, existing multiagency criminal justice 177 information systems, and the cost of construction or lease, 178 maintenance, utilities, and security of facilities for the circuit and county courts, public defenders' offices, state 179 180 attorneys' offices, guardian ad litem offices, and the offices 181 of the clerks of the circuit and county courts performing courtrelated functions. For purposes of this section, the term 182 "circuit and county courts" includes the offices and staffing of 183 184 the guardian ad litem programs, and the term "public defenders' offices" includes the offices of criminal conflict and civil 185 regional counsel. The county designated under s. 35.05(1) as the 186 181179

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187 headquarters for each appellate district shall fund these costs 188 for the appellate division of the public defender's office in 189 that county. For purposes of implementing these requirements, 190 the term:

191 "Facility" means reasonable and necessary buildings (a) 192 and office space and appurtenant equipment and furnishings, 193 structures, real estate, easements, and related interests in 194 real estate, including, but not limited to, those for the 195 purpose of housing legal materials for use by the general public 196 and personnel, equipment, or functions of the circuit or county 197 courts, public defenders' offices, state attorneys' offices, and 198 court-related functions of the office of the clerks of the 199 circuit and county courts and all storage. The term "facility" 200 includes all wiring necessary for court reporting services. The 201 term also includes access to parking for such facilities in 202 connection with such court-related functions that may be 203 available free or from a private provider or a local government 204 for a fee. The office space provided by a county may not be less 205 than the standards for space allotment adopted by the Department 206 of Management Services, except this requirement applies only to facilities that are leased, or on which construction commences, 207 after June 30, 2003. County funding must include physical 208 209 modifications and improvements to all facilities as are required 210 for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Upon mutual agreement of a county and the affected entity in this 211 181179

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212 paragraph, the office space provided by the county may vary from 213 the standards for space allotment adopted by the Department of 214 Management Services.

1. As of July 1, 2005, equipment and furnishings shall be 215 216 limited to that appropriate and customary for courtrooms, 217 hearing rooms, jury facilities, and other public areas in 218 courthouses and any other facility occupied by the courts, state attorneys, public defenders, guardians ad litem, and criminal 219 220 conflict and civil regional counsel. Court reporting equipment 221 in these areas or facilities is not a responsibility of the 222 county.

223 2. Equipment and furnishings under this paragraph in 224 existence and owned by counties on July 1, 2005, except for that 225 in the possession of the clerks, for areas other than 226 courtrooms, hearing rooms, jury facilities, and other public 227 areas in courthouses and any other facility occupied by the 228 courts, state attorneys, and public defenders, shall be 229 transferred to the state at no charge. This provision does not 230 apply to any communications services as defined in paragraph 231 (f).

(b) "Construction or lease" includes, but is not limited to, all reasonable and necessary costs of the acquisition or lease of facilities for all judicial officers, staff, jurors, volunteers of a tenant agency, and the public for the circuit and county courts, the public defenders' offices, state 181179

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237 attorneys' offices, and for performing the court-related 238 functions of the offices of the clerks of the circuit and county 239 courts. This includes expenses related to financing such 240 facilities and the existing and future cost and bonded 241 indebtedness associated with placing the facilities in use.

242 "Maintenance" includes, but is not limited to, all (C) 243 reasonable and necessary costs of custodial and groundskeeping services and renovation and reconstruction as needed to 244 245 accommodate functions for the circuit and county courts, the 246 public defenders' offices, and state attorneys' offices and for 247 performing the court-related functions of the offices of the 248 clerks of the circuit and county court and for maintaining the 249 facilities in a condition appropriate and safe for the use 250 intended.

(d) "Utilities" means all electricity services for light, heat, and power; natural or manufactured gas services for light, heat, and power; water and wastewater services and systems, stormwater or runoff services and systems, sewer services and systems, all costs or fees associated with these services and systems, and any costs or fees associated with the mitigation of environmental impacts directly related to the facility.

(e) "Security" includes but is not limited to, all reasonable and necessary costs of services of law enforcement officers or licensed security guards and all electronic, cellular, or digital monitoring and screening devices necessary 181179

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to ensure the safety and security of all persons visiting or working in a facility; to provide for security of the facility, including protection of property owned by the county or the state; and for security of prisoners brought to any facility. This includes bailiffs while providing courtroom and other security for each judge and other quasi-judicial officers.

268 (f) "Communications services" are defined as any 269 reasonable and necessary transmission, emission, and reception 270 of signs, signals, writings, images, and sounds of intelligence of any nature by wire, radio, optical, audio equipment, or other 271 electromagnetic systems and includes all facilities and 272 273 equipment owned, leased, or used by judges, clerks, public 274 defenders, state attorneys, guardians ad litem, criminal 275 conflict and civil regional counsel, and all staff of the state 276 courts system, state attorneys' offices, public defenders' 277 offices, and clerks of the circuit and county courts performing 278 court-related functions. Such system or services shall include, 279 but not be limited to:

1. Telephone system infrastructure, including computer lines, telephone switching equipment, and maintenance, and facsimile equipment, wireless communications, cellular telephones, pagers, and video teleconferencing equipment and line charges. Each county shall continue to provide access to a local carrier for local and long distance service and shall pay toll charges for local and long distance service.

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2.87 2. All computer networks, systems and equipment, including 288 computer hardware and software, modems, printers, wiring, 289 network connections, maintenance, support staff or services 290 including any county-funded support staff located in the offices 291 of the circuit court, county courts, state attorneys, public 292 defenders, guardians ad litem, and criminal conflict and civil 293 regional counsel; training, supplies, and line charges necessary 294 for an integrated computer system to support the operations and 295 management of the state courts system, the offices of the public 296 defenders, the offices of the state attorneys, the quardian ad 297 litem offices, the offices of criminal conflict and civil 298 regional counsel, and the offices of the clerks of the circuit 299 and county courts; and the capability to connect those entities 300 and reporting data to the state as required for the transmission 301 of revenue, performance accountability, case management, data 302 collection, budgeting, and auditing purposes. The integrated 303 computer system shall be operational by July 1, 2006, and, at a 304 minimum, permit the exchange of financial, performance 305 accountability, case management, case disposition, and other 306 data across multiple state and county information systems 307 involving multiple users at both the state level and within each 308 judicial circuit and be able to electronically exchange judicial 309 case background data, sentencing scoresheets, and video evidence 310 information stored in integrated case management systems over secure networks. Once the integrated system becomes operational, 311 181179

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312 counties may reject requests to purchase communications services 313 included in this subparagraph not in compliance with standards, 314 protocols, or processes adopted by the board established 315 pursuant to former s. 29.0086.

316

3. Courier messenger and subpoena services.

317 Auxiliary aids and services for qualified individuals 4. 318 with a disability which are necessary to ensure access to the 319 courts. Such auxiliary aids and services include, but are not 320 limited to, sign language interpretation services required under 321 the federal Americans with Disabilities Act other than services 322 required to satisfy due-process requirements and identified as a 323 state funding responsibility pursuant to ss. 29.004, 29.005, 324 29.006, and 29.007, real-time transcription services for 325 individuals who are hearing impaired, and assistive listening 326 devices and the equipment necessary to implement such 327 accommodations.

328 "Existing radio systems" includes, but is not limited (q) 329 to, law enforcement radio systems that are used by the circuit 330 and county courts, the offices of the public defenders, the 331 offices of the state attorneys, and for court-related functions of the offices of the clerks of the circuit and county courts. 332 333 This includes radio systems that were operational or under 334 contract at the time Revision No. 7, 1998, to Art. V of the 335 State Constitution was adopted and any enhancements made

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336 thereafter, the maintenance of those systems, and the personnel 337 and supplies necessary for operation.

338 (h) "Existing multiagency criminal justice information 339 systems" includes, but is not limited to, those components of 340 the multiagency criminal justice information system as defined 341 in s. 943.045, supporting the offices of the circuit or county 342 courts, the public defenders' offices, the state attorneys' 343 offices, or those portions of the offices of the clerks of the 344 circuit and county courts performing court-related functions 345 that are used to carry out the court-related activities of those 346 entities. This includes upgrades and maintenance of the current 347 equipment, maintenance and upgrades of supporting technology 348 infrastructure and associated staff, and services and expenses 349 to assure continued information sharing and reporting of 350 information to the state. The counties shall also provide 351 additional information technology services, hardware, and 352 software as needed for new judges and staff of the state courts 353 system, state attorneys' offices, public defenders' offices, 354 quardian ad litem offices, and the offices of the clerks of the 355 circuit and county courts performing court-related functions.

356 Section 13. Effective January 1, 2023, for the purpose of 357 incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 35.05, 358 Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of 359 section 35.051, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

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360 35.051 Subsistence and travel reimbursement for judges 361 with alternate headquarters.-362 (1) (a) A district court of appeal judge is eligible for 363 the designation of a county courthouse or another appropriate 364 facility in his or her county of residence as his or her 365 official headquarters for purposes of s. 112.061 if the judge 366 permanently resides more than 50 miles from: 367 1. The appellate district's headquarters as prescribed 368 under s. 35.05(1), if the judge is assigned to such 369 headquarters; or 370 The appellate district's branch headquarters 2. 371 established under s. 35.05(2), if the judge is assigned to such branch headquarters. 372 373 374 The official headquarters may serve only as the judge's private 375 chambers. 376 A district court of appeal judge for whom an (b)1. 377 official headquarters is designated in his or her county of 378 residence under this subsection is eligible for subsistence at a 379 rate to be established by the Chief Justice for each day or partial day that the judge is at the headquarters or branch 380 381 headquarters of his or her appellate district to conduct court 382 business, as authorized by the chief judge of that district 383 court of appeal. The Chief Justice may authorize a judge to choose between subsistence based on lodging at a single-384 181179

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385 occupancy rate and meal reimbursement as provided in s. 112.061 386 and subsistence at a fixed rate prescribed by the Chief Justice. 387 2. In addition to subsistence, a district court of appeal 388 judge is eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses as 389 provided in s. 112.061(7) and (8) for travel between the judge's 390 official headquarters and the headquarters or branch 391 headquarters of the appellate district to conduct court 392 business. 393 (C) Payment of subsistence and reimbursement for travel 394 expenses between the judge's official headquarters and the 395 headquarters or branch headquarters of his or her appellate 396 district shall be made to the extent that appropriated funds are 397 available, as determined by the Chief Justice. 398 Section 14. All property, including equipment, 399 furnishings, artwork, and fixtures, located at the Lakeland 400 headquarters of the current Second District Court of Appeal or 401 being used by employees assigned to the Lakeland headquarters 402 must remain in Lakeland and must be transferred to the Sixth 403 District Court of Appeal unless the Office of the State Courts 404 Administrator determines that such property is critical to the 405 continuing operations of the Second District Court of Appeal. 406 Section 15. No judicial vacancy may be deemed to occur as 407 a result of the addition of a sixth appellate district or 408 district realignment under this act. Effective January 1, 2023, a current district court of appeal judge residing in a county, 409 181179

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410	the district of which is realigned under this act, shall be a
411	district court of appeal judge of the new district where he or
412	she resided on December 22, 2021. On January 1, 2023, the
413	Governor shall recommission any judge whose district was
414	modified by the realignment of districts pursuant to this act;
415	except that, the recommission of any judge whose district is
416	modified by the realignment of districts and is seeking
417	retention to office at the 2022 general election, and is
418	retained by the voters at such election, shall occur January 3,
419	<u>2023.</u>
420	Section 16. Notwithstanding the amendments made to s.
421	35.05(1), Florida Statutes, by this act, until the Second
422	Appellate District occupies the courthouse authorized in proviso
423	accompanying Specific Appropriation 3147A of chapter law 2021-
424	36, Laws of Florida, the district headquarters may be located in
425	the Thirteenth Judicial circuit, Hillsborough County.
426	Section 17. <u>To ensure compliance with the residency</u>
427	requirements that members of judicial nominating commissions
428	must meet at the time of their appointment, the terms of all
429	members of the judicial nominating commissions of the First
430	District Court of Appeal, the Second District Court of Appeal,
431	and the Fifth District Court of Appeal are hereby terminated.
432	The Governor shall make appointments to these three commissions
433	and to the new Sixth District Court of Appeal nominating
434	commissions in the following manner:
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435	(1) Three appointments for terms ending July 1, 2023, one
436	of which shall be an appointment selected from nominations
437	submitted by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar pursuant
438	to s. 43.291(1)(a), Florida Statutes.
439	(2) Three appointments for terms ending July 1, 2024, one
440	of which shall be an appointment selected from nominations
441	submitted by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar pursuant
442	to s. 43.291(1)(a), Florida Statutes.
443	(3) Three appointments for terms ending July 1, 2026, two
444	of which shall be an appointment selected from nominations
445	submitted by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar pursuant
446	to s. 43.291(1)(a), Florida Statutes.
447	
448	Every subsequent appointment, except an appointment to fill a
449	vacant, unexpired term, shall be for four years. Current members
450	of the First, Second, and Fifth Judicial Nominating Commissions
451	may apply for appointment to the commission serving the
452	territorial jurisdiction where they reside.
453	Section 18. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
454	act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.
455	
456	
457	TITLE AMENDMENT
458	Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:
459	A bill to be entitled
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460	An act relating to the judicial branch; amending s.
461	27.51, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by
462	the act; amending s. 27.511, F.S.; providing
463	geographic boundaries for offices of criminal conflict
464	and civil regional counsel; amending s. 34.022, F.S.;
465	revising the number of county court judges in a
466	specified county; amending ss. 35.01, 35.02, 35.03,
467	35.043, F.S.; providing for the realignment of
468	appellate districts; creating s. 35.044, F.S.;
469	creating a sixth appellate district; amending s.
470	35.05, F.S.; revising the location of the headquarters
471	of the Second Appellate District; providing the
472	location of the headquarters of the Sixth Appellate
473	District; providing legislative intent; amending s.
474	35.06, F.S.; revising the number of judges of each
475	district court of appeal; amending s. 440.45, F.S.;
476	revising the number of members and electors for the of
477	the statewide nominating commission; removing obsolete
478	language; reenacting s. 29.008(1), F.S., relating to
479	county funding of court-related functions, to
480	incorporate the amendment made to s. 35.05, Florida
481	Statutes, in a reference thereto; reenacting s.
482	35.051(1), F.S., relating to subsistence and travel
483	reimbursement for judges with alternate headquarters,
484	to incorporate the amendment made to s. 35.05, Florida
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485 Statutes, in a reference thereto; requiring all 486 specified property located in the Lakeland 487 headquarters of the current Second District Court of 488 Appeal or in use by employees assigned to such 489 headquarters to be transferred to the Sixth District 490 Court of Appeal unless a certain finding is made by 491 the Office of the State Courts Administrator; 492 providing construction; requiring the reallocation of 493 judges residing within districts realigned by the act; 494 requiring the Governor to recommission certain judges 495 on specified dates; authorizing a temporary 496 headquarters for a specified Appellate district; 497 providing for the termination of the terms of members 498 of certain judicial nominating commissions; requiring 499 the Governor to make appointments to specified 500 judicial nominating commissions; providing 501 requirements for such appointments; authorizing 502 members of specified nominating commissions to apply 503 for appointment; providing effective dates.

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