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An act relating to judges; amending s. 26.031, F.S.; increasing the number of circuit judges in certain judicial circuits; amending s. 34.022, F.S.; increasing the number of county court judges in certain counties; amending s. 35.06, F.S.; increasing the number of judges on the Sixth District Court of Appeal; providing for the reduction in the number of judges on the Second District Court of Appeal under specified conditions; providing a declaration of important state interest; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (2), (4), (5), (7) through (12), (14), (15), and (19) of section 26.031, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

26.031 Judicial circuits; number of judges.—The number of circuit judges in each circuit shall be as follows:

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT	TOTAL
(2) Second .....	<u>17</u> <del>16</del>
(4) Fourth .....	<u>37</u> <del>35</del>
(5) Fifth .....	<u>34</u> <del>31</del>
(7) Seventh .....	<u>29</u> <del>27</del>
(8) Eighth .....	<u>14</u> <del>13</del>
(9) Ninth .....	<u>48</u> <del>46</del>
(10) Tenth .....	<u>30</u> <del>28</del>
(11) Eleventh .....	<u>83</u> <del>80</del>

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(12) Twelfth .....24 ~~22~~  
(14) Fourteenth .....14 ~~13~~  
(15) Fifteenth .....37 ~~35~~  
(19) Nineteenth .....20 ~~19~~

Section 2. Subsections (3), (10), (26), (34), (40), (41),  
(43), (45), (49), (50), (53), and (60) of section 34.022,  
Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

34.022 Number of county court judges for each county.—The  
number of county court judges in each county shall be as  
follows:

COUNTY	TOTAL
(3) Bay .....	<u>5</u> <del>4</del>
(10) Clay .....	<u>3</u> <del>2</del>
(26) Hernando .....	<u>3</u> <del>2</del>
(34) Lake .....	<u>5</u> <del>4</del>
(40) Manatee .....	<u>5</u> <del>4</del>
(41) Marion .....	<u>5</u> <del>4</del>
(43) Miami-Dade .....	<u>47</u> <del>43</del>
(45) Nassau .....	<u>2</u> <del>1</del>
(49) Osceola .....	<u>5</u> <del>4</del>
(50) Palm Beach .....	<u>20</u> <del>19</del>
(53) Polk .....	<u>11</u> <del>10</del>
(60) Sumter .....	<u>2</u> <del>1</del>

Section 3. Subsections (2) and (6) of section 35.06,  
Florida Statutes, are amended, and a new subsection (7) is added  
to that section, to read:

35.06 Organization of district courts of appeal.—A district  
court of appeal shall be organized in each of the six appellate

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districts to be named District Court of Appeal, .... District.  
The number of judges of each district court of appeal shall be  
as follows:

(2) Except as provided in subsection (7), in the second  
district there shall be 15 judges.

(6) In the sixth district there shall be 11 ~~9~~ judges.

(7)(a) Effective July 1, 2025, upon each occurrence of a  
vacancy in the office of judge of the second district, the  
number of judges in the second district shall be reduced by 1  
until 13 judges remain in the second district, and in the second  
district there shall be 13 judges.

(b) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall notify the  
Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
House of Representatives of the occurrence of an event that  
otherwise would have resulted in a vacancy in the office of  
judge of the second district but instead results in the  
reduction of a judgeship pursuant to paragraph (a).

Section 4. The Legislature finds and declares that this act  
fulfills an important state interest.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.