

CHAPTER 75**(HB 502)**

AN ACT relating to the administration of justice and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, in 2016 Ky. Acts ch. 134, sec. 1, the 2016-18 Judicial Branch Budget, the 2016 General Assembly appropriated funds for a new Family Court judgeship in the Sixth Judicial Circuit for fiscal years 2016-17 and 2017-18; and

WHEREAS, while the 2016-18 Judicial Branch Budget contained the language necessary to fund the additional Sixth Judicial Circuit judgeship, no corresponding revisions to the applicable portions of KRS Chapter 23A were enacted by the 2016 General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Family Court judgeship in the Sixth Judicial Circuit was filled in the November 2016 election as a result of the General Assembly's funding, and Family Court has been operational in Daviess County since January 3, 2017;

WHEREAS, it is critical to the administration of justice in the Commonwealth that the addition of a circuit judgeship in the Sixth Judicial Circuit be authorized in KRS 23A.045 by the 2017 General Assembly, in compliance with the funding appropriated by the 2016 General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, this Act serves to facilitate enactment of the necessary legislation with the intent that the legislation herein be applied retroactively to April 16, 2016, the effective date of the 2016-18 Judicial Branch Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Supreme Court has certified the necessity for the new Sixth Judicial Circuit judgeship;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 23A.040 is amended to read as follows:

The following judicial circuits are entitled to two (2) judges and shall have two (2) numbered divisions of the Circuit Court:

- (1) Fourth Judicial Circuit.
- (2) Fifth Judicial Circuit.
- (3) ~~{Sixth Judicial Circuit.~~
- (4) ~~—}~~Tenth Judicial Circuit.
- (4)~~{5}~~ Eleventh Judicial Circuit.
- (5)~~{6}~~ Twelfth Judicial Circuit.
- (6)~~{7}~~ Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.
- (7)~~{8}~~ Eighteenth Judicial Circuit.
- (8)~~{9}~~ Twentieth Judicial Circuit.
- (9)~~{10}~~ Twenty-first Judicial Circuit.
- (10)~~{11}~~ Twenty-fourth Judicial Circuit.
- (11)~~{12}~~ Thirty-second Judicial Circuit.
- (12)~~{13}~~ Thirty-fourth Judicial Circuit.
- (13)~~{14}~~ Thirty-seventh Judicial Circuit.
- (14)~~{15}~~ Thirty-eighth Judicial Circuit.
- (15)~~{16}~~ Thirty-ninth Judicial Circuit.

- ~~(16)~~~~(17)~~ Forty-first Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(17)~~~~(18)~~ Forty-second Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(18)~~~~(19)~~ Forty-third Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(19)~~~~(20)~~ Forty-sixth Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(20)~~~~(21)~~ Forty-ninth Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(21)~~~~(22)~~ Fiftieth Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(22)~~~~(23)~~ Fifty-first Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(23)~~~~(24)~~ Fifty-third Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(24)~~~~(25)~~ Fifty-fifth Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(25)~~~~(26)~~ Fifty-seventh Judicial Circuit.

➔Section 2. KRS 23A.045 is amended to read as follows:

The following judicial circuits are entitled to three (3) Circuit Judges and shall have three (3) numbered divisions of the Circuit Court:

- (1) Second Judicial Circuit.
- (2) Third Judicial Circuit.
- (3) ***Sixth Judicial Circuit.***
- ~~(4)~~~~(3)~~ Fourteenth Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(5)~~~~(4)~~ Seventeenth Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(6)~~~~(5)~~ Twenty-seventh Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(7)~~~~(6)~~ Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(8)~~~~(7)~~ Thirty-first Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(9)~~~~(8)~~ Thirty-fifth Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(10)~~~~(9)~~ Forty-eighth Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(11)~~~~(10)~~ Fifty-fourth Judicial Circuit.

➔Section 3. Whereas it is critical to the ongoing operation of the Daviess County Family Court to authorize the addition of a circuit court judgeship in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

➔Section 4. The provisions of this Act shall apply retroactively to April 16, 2016.

Signed by Governor March 21, 2017.