

CHAPTER 57

(HB 348)

AN ACT relating to judicial districts and circuits.

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

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 21A IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) *Beginning in 2020 and every eight (8) years thereafter, the Supreme Court may direct the Administrative Office of the Courts to perform a weighted caseload analysis to determine the need to reduce, increase, or rearrange the Commonwealth's judicial circuits and districts, to reallocate the assignment of judges, or to modify the number of judges relative to their respective populations or caseloads. This analysis shall include caseload totals by case type and case weight and the total number of judges necessary for the Commonwealth's judicial circuits and districts.*
- (2) *The Supreme Court shall submit any weighted caseload analysis performed under subsection (1) of this section to the General Assembly by December 31 of the year in which the analysis is performed. If the analysis indicates a need to reduce, increase, or rearrange the judicial circuits or districts, to reallocate the assignment of judges, or to modify the number of judges due to population or caseload changes, a certification of necessity shall be submitted as required by Sections 112 and 113 of the Constitution of Kentucky, which may include a proposed redrawing of circuit or district boundaries, reallocation of the assignment of judges, or modification of the number of judges.*

➔Section 2. 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) Tenth Judicial Circuit.
- (4) Eleventh Judicial Circuit.
- (5) Twelfth Judicial Circuit.
- (6) Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.
- (7) Eighteenth Judicial Circuit.
- (8) Twentieth Judicial Circuit.
- (9) Twenty-first Judicial Circuit.
- (10) Twenty-fourth Judicial Circuit.
- (11) Thirty-second Judicial Circuit.
- (12) Thirty-fourth Judicial Circuit.
- (13) Thirty-seventh Judicial Circuit.
- (14) Thirty-eighth Judicial Circuit.
- (15) Thirty-ninth Judicial Circuit.
- (16) Forty-first Judicial Circuit.
- (17) Forty-second Judicial Circuit.
- (18) Forty-third Judicial Circuit.
- (19) Forty-sixth Judicial Circuit.
- (20) Forty-ninth Judicial Circuit.

- (21) Fiftieth Judicial Circuit.
- (22) Fifty-first Judicial Circuit.
- (23) Fifty-third Judicial Circuit.
- (24) ~~{Fifty-fifth Judicial Circuit.~~
- ~~(25) }Fifty-seventh Judicial Circuit.~~

➔Section 3. 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) Fourteenth Judicial Circuit.
- (5) Seventeenth Judicial Circuit.
- (6) Twenty-seventh Judicial Circuit.
- (7) ~~{Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit.~~
- ~~(8) }Thirty-first Judicial Circuit.~~
- ~~(8){(9)}~~ Thirty-fifth Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(9){(10)}~~ Forty-eighth Judicial Circuit.
- ~~{(11) Fifty-fourth Judicial Circuit.}~~

(10) *Fifty-fifth Judicial Circuit.*

➔Section 4. KRS 23A.050 is amended to read as follows:

The following judicial circuits are entitled to four (4) judges and shall have four (4) numbered divisions of the Circuit Court:

- (1) Eighth Judicial Circuit.
- (2) Ninth Judicial Circuit.
- (3) Twenty-fifth Judicial Circuit.
- (4) *Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit.***
- (5) *Fifty-fourth Judicial Circuit.***

➔Section 5. KRS 24A.050 is amended to read as follows:

The following judicial districts are entitled to two (2) District Judges and shall have two (2) numbered divisions of the District Court:

- (1) Second Judicial District.
- (2) Third Judicial District.
- (3) Fourth Judicial District.
- (4) Ninth Judicial District.
- (5) Eleventh Judicial District.
- (6) Twelfth Judicial District.
- (7) Thirteenth Judicial District.
- (8) Fourteenth Judicial District.
- (9) Fifteenth Judicial District.

- (10) Seventeenth Judicial District.
- (11) Twenty-first Judicial District.
- (12) Twenty-fourth Judicial District.
- (13) Twenty-seventh Judicial District.
- (14) Twenty-eighth Judicial District.
- (15) Thirty-first Judicial District.
- (16) Thirty-second Judicial District.
- (17) Thirty-fourth Judicial District.
- (18) Thirty-fifth Judicial District.
- (19) Thirty-eighth Judicial District.
- (20) Fortieth Judicial District.
- (21) Forty-first Judicial District.
- (22) Forty-sixth Judicial District.
- (23) Forty-eighth Judicial District.
- (24) Fifty-first Judicial District.
- (25) Fifty-third Judicial District.
- (26) Fifty-fourth Judicial District.
- (27) ~~Fifty-fifth Judicial District.~~
- ~~(28)~~ Fifty-sixth Judicial District.

➔ Section 6. 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) Tenth Judicial Circuit.
- (4) Eleventh Judicial Circuit.
- (5) Twelfth Judicial Circuit.
- (6) Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.
- (7) Eighteenth Judicial Circuit.
- (8) Twentieth Judicial Circuit.
- (9) Twenty-first Judicial Circuit.
- (10) Twenty-fourth Judicial Circuit.
- (11) ***Thirty-first Judicial Circuit.***
- (12) Thirty-second Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(13)~~~~(12)~~ Thirty-fourth Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(14)~~~~(13)~~ Thirty-seventh Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(15)~~~~(14)~~ Thirty-eighth Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(16)~~~~(15)~~ Thirty-ninth Judicial Circuit.
- ~~(17)~~~~(16)~~ Forty-first Judicial Circuit.

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

➔Section 7. 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) Fourteenth Judicial Circuit.
- (5) Seventeenth Judicial Circuit.
- (6) Twenty-seventh Judicial Circuit.
- (7) Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit.
- (8) ~~Thirty-first Judicial Circuit.~~
- ~~(9)~~Thirty-fifth Judicial Circuit.
- (9)~~(10)~~ Forty-eighth Judicial Circuit.
- (10)~~(11)~~ Fifty-fourth Judicial Circuit.

➔Section 8. KRS 24A.030 is amended to read as follows:

The state is divided into judicial districts, each to be composed of the following counties:

- (1) First Judicial District. **Ballard, Carlisle**, Fulton, and Hickman.
- (2) Second Judicial District. McCracken.
- (3) Third Judicial District. Christian.
- (4) Fourth Judicial District. Hopkins.
- (5) Fifth Judicial District. Crittenden, Union, and Webster.
- (6) Sixth Judicial District. Daviess.
- (7) Seventh Judicial District. Logan and Todd.
- (8) Eighth Judicial District. Warren.
- (9) Ninth Judicial District. Hardin.
- (10) Tenth Judicial District. Hart and Larue.
- (11) Eleventh Judicial District. Green, Marion, Taylor, and Washington.
- (12) Twelfth Judicial District. Henry, Oldham, and Trimble.
- (13) Thirteenth Judicial District. Garrard, Jessamine, and Lincoln.
- (14) Fourteenth Judicial District. Bourbon, Scott, and Woodford.

- (15) Fifteenth Judicial District. Carroll, Grant, and Owen.
- (16) Sixteenth Judicial District. Kenton.
- (17) Seventeenth Judicial District. Campbell.
- (18) Eighteenth Judicial District. Harrison, Nicholas, Pendleton, and Robertson.
- (19) Nineteenth Judicial District. Bracken, Fleming, and Mason.
- (20) Twentieth Judicial District. Greenup and Lewis.
- (21) Twenty-first Judicial District. Bath, Menifee, Montgomery, and Rowan.
- (22) Twenty-second Judicial District. Fayette.
- (23) Twenty-third Judicial District. Estill, Lee, and Owsley.
- (24) Twenty-fourth Judicial District. Lawrence, Johnson, and Martin.
- (25) Twenty-fifth Judicial District. Clark and Madison.
- (26) Twenty-sixth Judicial District. Harlan.
- (27) Twenty-seventh Judicial District. Knox and Laurel.
- (28) Twenty-eighth Judicial District. Pulaski and Rockcastle.
- (29) Twenty-ninth Judicial District. Adair and Casey.
- (30) Thirtieth Judicial District. Jefferson.
- (31) Thirty-first Judicial District. Floyd.
- (32) Thirty-second Judicial District. Boyd.
- (33) Thirty-third Judicial District. Perry.
- (34) Thirty-fourth Judicial District. Whitley and McCreary.
- (35) Thirty-fifth Judicial District. Pike.
- (36) Thirty-sixth Judicial District. Magoffin and Knott.
- (37) Thirty-seventh Judicial District. Carter, Elliott, and Morgan.
- (38) Thirty-eighth Judicial District. Butler, Edmonson, Ohio, and Hancock.
- (39) Thirty-ninth Judicial District. Breathitt, Wolfe, and Powell.
- (40) Fortieth Judicial District. Clinton, Russell, and Wayne.
- (41) Forty-first Judicial District. Clay, Jackson, and Leslie.
- (42) Forty-second Judicial District. Calloway.
- (43) Forty-third Judicial District. Barren and Metcalfe.
- (44) Forty-fourth Judicial District. Bell.
- (45) Forty-fifth Judicial District. Muhlenberg and McLean.
- (46) Forty-sixth Judicial District. Breckinridge, Grayson, and Meade.
- (47) Forty-seventh Judicial District. Letcher.
- (48) Forty-eighth Judicial District. Franklin.
- (49) Forty-ninth Judicial District. Allen and Simpson.
- (50) Fiftieth Judicial District. Boyle and Mercer.
- (51) Fifty-first Judicial District. Henderson.
- (52) Fifty-second Judicial District. Graves.

- (53) Fifty-third Judicial District. Shelby, Anderson, and Spencer.
- (54) Fifty-fourth Judicial District. Boone and Gallatin.
- (55) Fifty-fifth Judicial District. Bullitt.
- (56) Fifty-sixth Judicial District. Caldwell, Livingston, Lyon, and Trigg.
- (57) Fifty-seventh Judicial District. Nelson.
- (58) Fifty-eighth Judicial District. Marshall.
- (59) Fifty-ninth Judicial District. ~~Ballard and Carlisle.~~
- ~~(60) Sixtieth Judicial District.~~ Cumberland and Monroe.

➔Section 9. Sections 1 to 5 of this Act have a regular effective date. Sections 6 to 8 of this Act have a delayed effective date of January 2, 2023.

➔Section 10. The term of the new circuit judgeships created by Sections 3 and 4 of this Act shall be effective January 7, 2019, and elections to fill the judgeships shall be placed on ballots for the regular election held in November 2018. Notwithstanding KRS 118A.060(2), a candidate for a judgeship created by Sections 3 and 4 of this Act may file a petition for nomination during the time period beginning on July 2, 2018, and ending at 4 p.m. local time at the place of filing on August 7, 2018. KRS Chapter 118A notwithstanding, all candidates for a judgeship created by Sections 3 and 4 of this Act who file a valid petition for nomination shall be placed on the ballot.

➔Section 11. The General Assembly requests that each additional Circuit Court judgeship added in the Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit, the Fifty-fourth Judicial Circuit, and the Fifty-fifth Judicial Circuit be designated by the Supreme Court as family court divisions.

➔Section 12. The General Assembly requests that, when the two District Court divisions of the Fifty-fifth Judicial District are reduced to one District Court division in Section 5 of this Act, the division eliminated should be the district currently numbered as "Division One."

➔Section 13. For the purposes of all vacancies, primaries, regular elections, or special elections of district judges occurring on or after January 1, 2022, the districts established in Section 8 of this Act shall be used.

Signed by Governor April 2, 2018.