



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 974

SENATE BILL NO. 5

By Green, Roberts, Hensley

Substituted for: House Bill No. 10

By Johnson, Sargent, Whitson, Casada

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 14; Title 8, Chapter 7; Title 16; Title 17; Title 18, Chapter 4 and Title 18, Chapter 5, relative to judicial districts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-2-506(16)(A), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision:

(iv) Effective September 1, 2018, there is created an additional trial court in the sixteenth judicial district. The type of court, type of judge to preside over the court, and part of court shall be designated as provided in § 16-2-512. The governor shall appoint a person to serve as an additional judge or chancellor, and the person so appointed shall serve in that capacity until September 1, 2020, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. At the August 2020 general election, the qualified voters of the sixteenth judicial district shall elect an additional judge or chancellor to serve until September 1, 2022, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. At the August 2022 general election, and every eight (8) years thereafter, the qualified voters of the sixteenth judicial district shall elect an additional judge or chancellor for a full eight-year term.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-2-506(19)(A), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision:

(vii) Effective September 1, 2018, there is created an additional trial court in the nineteenth judicial district. The type of court, type of judge to preside over the court, and part of court shall be designated as provided in § 16-2-512. The governor shall appoint a person to serve as an additional judge or chancellor, and the person so appointed shall serve in that capacity until September 1, 2020, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. At the August 2020 general election, the qualified voters of the nineteenth judicial district shall elect an additional judge or chancellor to serve until September 1, 2022, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. At the August 2022 general election, and every eight (8) years thereafter, the qualified voters of the nineteenth judicial district shall elect an additional judge or chancellor for a full eight-year term.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-2-506(21)(A), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (i) and adding the following language as new subdivisions:

(ii) Effective September 1, 2018, there is created an additional trial court in the twenty-first judicial district. The type of court, type of judge to preside over the court, and part of court shall be designated as provided in § 16-2-512. The governor shall appoint a person to serve as an additional judge or chancellor, and the person so appointed shall serve in that capacity until September 1, 2020, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. At the August 2020 general election, the qualified voters of the twenty-first judicial district shall elect an additional judge or chancellor to serve until September 1, 2022, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified. At the August 2022 general election, and every eight (8) years thereafter, the qualified voters of the twenty-first judicial district shall elect an additional judge or chancellor for a full eight-year term.

(iii) It is the intent of the general assembly by adding an additional trial court in the twenty-first judicial district that the interests of public access to the courts and economy of judicial travel are best served by the presiding judge designating the new trial court created by subdivision (21)(A)(ii) to serve Hickman, Lewis, and Perry counties. Unless otherwise designated by the presiding judge to effectuate the duties enumerated in § 16-2-509(b), the remaining judges shall serve Williamson county.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a)(1)(A) By no later than September 1, 2018, the speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall establish an advisory task force to review the composition of Tennessee's current judicial districts codified at § 16-2-506.

(B) The task force shall be composed of eleven (11) members, as follows:

(i) Three (3) current trial court judges, one (1) representing each grand division, appointed by joint action of the speaker of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives;

(ii) Three (3) current district attorneys general, one (1) representing each grand division, appointed by joint action of the speaker of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives;

(iii) Three (3) current district public defenders, one (1) representing each grand division, appointed by the joint action of the speaker of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives; and

(iv) Two (2) citizen members, one (1) appointed by each speaker. The citizen members must reside in different grand divisions.

(C) The speakers shall jointly designate one (1) of the members to serve as chair of the task force.

(2)(A) By no later than December 1, 2019, the task force shall complete its findings and recommend and publish a proposed statewide judicial redistricting plan. The plan shall provide reasonable and timely access to Tennessee's circuit, chancery, and criminal courts and shall promote the efficient utilization of publicly funded resources allocated for the courts.

(B) Prior to completing its findings and recommending this plan, the task force shall conduct at least one (1) public hearing within each of the three (3) grand divisions and shall receive oral and written testimony from interested organizations and citizens of this state. In addition, the task force shall establish a publicly accessible judicial redistricting task force page on the website of the administrative office of the courts for redistricting-related information, including meeting notices and redistricting plans.

(3) The task force shall deliver a report of its findings, as well as its proposed judicial redistricting plan, to the governor, the speakers of the senate and house of representatives, the judiciary committee of the senate, the civil justice committee of the house of representatives, and the administrative office of the courts at least one (1) week prior to publication of the proposed judicial redistricting plan.

(b)(1) The administrative office of the courts shall provide support services to the task force created under this section.

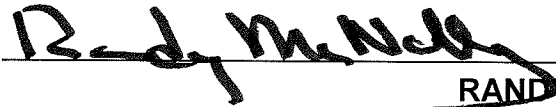
(2) The members of the task force shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement of any travel expenses incurred. All reimbursement for travel expenses shall be in conformity with the comprehensive state travel regulations as promulgated by the commissioner of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(3) The task force shall cease to exist upon completion of the task force's report and recommendations.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 25, 2018

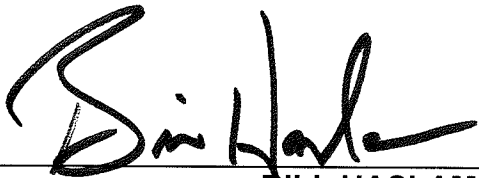


RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 21st day of May 2018



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR