

1 AN ACT concerning courts.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Circuit Courts Act is amended by changing  
5 Section 2f as follows:

6 (705 ILCS 35/2f) (from Ch. 37, par. 72.2f)

7 Sec. 2f. Circuit of Cook County.

8 (a) Until December 2, 2024, the Circuit of Cook County  
9 shall be divided into 15 units to be known as subcircuits. On  
10 and after December 2, 2024, the Circuit of Cook County is  
11 divided into 20 subcircuits as drawn by the General Assembly.  
12 The subcircuits shall be compact, contiguous, and  
13 substantially equal in population. Beginning in 2031, the  
14 General Assembly shall, in the year following each federal  
15 decennial census, redraw the boundaries of the subcircuits to  
16 reflect the results of the most recent federal decennial  
17 census.

18 In accordance with subsection (d), a resident judgeship  
19 assigned to a subcircuit shall continue to be assigned to that  
20 subcircuit. Any vacancy in a resident judgeship existing on or  
21 occurring after the effective date of a law redrawing the  
22 boundaries of the subcircuits shall be filled by a resident of  
23 the redrawn subcircuit.

1           (b) The 165 resident judges to be elected from the Circuit  
2 of Cook County shall be determined under paragraph (4) of  
3 subsection (a) of Section 2 of the Judicial Vacancies Act.

4           (c) For resident judgeships to be filled by election on or  
5 before the 2022 general election, the Supreme Court shall  
6 allot (i) the additional resident judgeships provided by  
7 paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of Section 2 of the Judicial  
8 Vacancies Act and (ii) all vacancies in resident judgeships  
9 existing on or occurring on or after the effective date of this  
10 amendatory Act of 1990, with respect to the other resident  
11 judgeships of the Circuit of Cook County, for election from  
12 the various subcircuits until there are 11 resident judges to  
13 be elected from each of the 15 subcircuits (for a total of  
14 165). A resident judgeship authorized before the effective  
15 date of this amendatory Act of 1990 that became vacant and was  
16 filled by appointment by the Supreme Court before that  
17 effective date shall be filled by election at the general  
18 election in November of 1992 from the unit of the Circuit of  
19 Cook County within Chicago or the unit of that Circuit outside  
20 Chicago, as the case may be, in which the vacancy occurred.

21           (d) As soon as practicable after the subcircuits are  
22 created by law, the Supreme Court shall determine by lot a  
23 numerical order for the 15 subcircuits. That numerical order  
24 shall be the basis for the order in which resident judgeships  
25 are assigned to the subcircuits. After the first round of  
26 assignments, the second and all later rounds shall be based on

1 the same numerical order. Once a resident judgeship is  
2 assigned to a subcircuit, it shall continue to be assigned to  
3 that subcircuit for all purposes; provided that a resident  
4 judge elected from a subcircuit seeking retention shall run  
5 for retention at large in the circuit in accordance with  
6 Article VI, Section 12(d) of the Illinois Constitution. No  
7 elected judge of the Circuit of Cook County serving on January  
8 7, 2022 shall be required to change his or her residency in  
9 order to continue serving in office or to seek retention in  
10 office as resident judgeships are allotted by the Supreme  
11 Court in accordance with this Section.

12 (d-5) For resident judgeships to be filled by election on  
13 or after the 2024 general election, a vacancy of a resident  
14 judgeship to be elected from a subcircuit shall be allotted by  
15 the Supreme Court to the subcircuit created under the Judicial  
16 Circuits Districting Act of 2022 that numerically corresponds  
17 to the subcircuit from which the resident judgeship was  
18 previously allotted. For any resident judgeship to be elected  
19 from a subcircuit that was not previously allotted to a  
20 subcircuit, vacancies shall be allotted in numerical order to  
21 subcircuits created under the Judicial Circuits Districting  
22 Act of 2022 which numerically correspond to subcircuits that  
23 had less than 11 resident judges on January 7, 2022 until there  
24 are 11 resident judges to be elected from each of the  
25 respective subcircuits. Vacancies in associate judgeships  
26 authorized under Section 2(a) of the Associate Judges Act

1 occurring or after June 1, 2023 shall be converted to resident  
2 circuit judgeships and shall be allotted in numerical order to  
3 subcircuits ~~Any vacancies in formerly associate judgeships~~  
4 ~~converted to resident circuit judgeships in the Circuit of~~  
5 ~~Cook County occurring on or after June 1, 2023 shall be~~  
6 ~~allotted in numerical order to Judicial Subcircuits 16, 17,~~  
7 ~~18, 19, and 20,~~ until there are 11 resident judges to be  
8 elected from each of those subcircuits (for a total of 55).  
9 Beginning with the 2024 election cycle, the ~~The~~ maximum number  
10 of ~~formerly~~ associate judgeship vacancies which shall be  
11 judgeships converted to resident circuit judgeships to which  
12 may be allotted to Judicial Subcircuits 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20  
13 in an election cycle shall be 10 resident circuit ~~2~~  
14 judgeships, with each subcircuit allotted no more than 2  
15 resident circuit judgeships per election cycle. Any additional  
16 associate judgeship vacancies in excess of the maximum number  
17 per election cycle shall not be converted to resident circuit  
18 judgeships and shall be filled according to Supreme Court Rule  
19 39 until such time that a vacancy in the associate judgeship  
20 occurs. A vacancy occurs when an associate judge dies,  
21 resigns, retires, is removed, or is not reappointed upon the  
22 expiration of his or her term; a vacancy does not occur at the  
23 expiration of a term if the associate judge is reappointed. As  
24 used in this subsection, "election cycle" means the period  
25 that begins on the day following the last day to certify  
26 judicial vacancies for election at the next general election

1 and ends on the last day to certify judicial vacancies for  
2 election at the next general election, as provided in Section  
3 25-3 of the Election Code subcircuit.

4 (e) A resident judge elected from a subcircuit shall  
5 continue to reside in that subcircuit as long as he or she  
6 holds that office. A resident judge elected from a subcircuit  
7 after January 1, 2008, must retain residency as a registered  
8 voter in the subcircuit to run for retention from the circuit  
9 at large thereafter.

10 (Source: P.A. 101-477, eff. 6-1-20; 102-668, eff. 11-15-21;  
11 102-693, eff. 1-7-22; 102-1126, eff. 2-10-23.)

12 Section 10. The Associate Judges Act is amended by  
13 changing Section 2 as follows:

14 (705 ILCS 45/2) (from Ch. 37, par. 160.2)

15 Sec. 2. (a) The maximum number of associate judges  
16 authorized for each circuit is the greater of the applicable  
17 minimum number specified in this Section or one for each  
18 35,000 or fraction thereof in population as determined by the  
19 last preceding Federal census, except for circuits with a  
20 population of more than 3,000,000 where the maximum number of  
21 associate judges is one for each 29,000 or fraction thereof in  
22 population as determined by the last preceding federal census,  
23 reduced in circuits of less than 200,000 inhabitants by the  
24 number of resident circuit judges elected in the circuit in

1 excess of one per county, except that the maximum number of  
2 associate judges authorized for the 24th circuit shall be 3.  
3 In addition, in circuits of 1,000,000 or more inhabitants,  
4 there shall be one additional associate judge authorized for  
5 each municipal district of the circuit court. The number of  
6 associate judges to be appointed in each circuit, not to  
7 exceed the maximum authorized, shall be determined from time  
8 to time by the Circuit Court. The minimum number of associate  
9 judges authorized for any circuit consisting of a single  
10 county shall be 14, except that the minimum in the 22nd circuit  
11 shall be 8, the minimum in the 19th circuit on and after  
12 December 4, 2006 shall be 20, and the maximum number of  
13 associate judges in the 20th circuit on and after December 5,  
14 2022 shall be 12. The minimum number of associate judges  
15 authorized for any circuit consisting of 2 counties with a  
16 combined population of at least 275,000 but less than 300,000  
17 shall be 10. The minimum number of associate judges authorized  
18 for any circuit with a population of at least 303,000 but not  
19 more than 309,000 shall be 10. The minimum number of associate  
20 judges authorized for any circuit with a population of at  
21 least 329,000, but not more than 349,999 shall be 11. The  
22 minimum number of associate judges authorized for any circuit  
23 with a population of at least 173,000 shall be 5. The number of  
24 associate judges authorized for a circuit shall not be reduced  
25 as a result of the 2020 federal decennial census. As used in  
26 this Section, the term "resident circuit judge" has the

1 meaning given it in the Judicial Vacancies Act.

2 (b) The maximum number of associate judges authorized  
3 under subsection (a) for a circuit with a population of more  
4 than 3,000,000 shall be reduced as provided in this subsection  
5 (b). For each vacancy that exists on or occurs on or after the  
6 effective date of this amendatory Act of 1990, that maximum  
7 number shall be reduced by one until the total number of  
8 associate judges authorized under subsection (a) is reduced by  
9 60. A vacancy exists or occurs when an associate judge dies,  
10 resigns, retires, is removed, or is not reappointed upon  
11 expiration of his or her term; a vacancy does not exist or  
12 occur at the expiration of a term if the associate judge is  
13 reappointed.

14 (b-5) The maximum number of associate judges authorized  
15 under subsection (a) for a circuit with a population of more  
16 than 3,000,000 shall be reduced as provided in this subsection  
17 (b-5). Vacancies in associate judgeships authorized under  
18 subsection (a) occurring on or after June 1, 2023 shall be  
19 converted to resident circuit judgeships and shall be allotted  
20 in numerical order to subcircuits 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 ~~Each~~  
21 ~~associate judgeship vacancy that occurs on or after June 1,~~  
22 ~~2023 shall be converted to a resident circuit judgeship and~~  
23 ~~allotted to a subcircuit~~ pursuant to subsection (d-5) of  
24 Section 2f of the Circuit Courts Act, with each subcircuit  
25 allotted no more than a total of 11 resident circuit  
26 judgeships. Each election cycle, beginning with the 2024

1 election cycle, a maximum of 10 associate judgeship vacancies  
2 shall be converted to resident circuit judgeships pursuant to  
3 subsection (d-5) of Section 2f of the Circuit Courts Act and  
4 ~~that maximum number shall be reduced by one~~ until the total  
5 number of associate judges authorized under subsection (a) is  
6 reduced by 55. The maximum number of ~~formerly~~ associate  
7 judgeships which may be converted to resident circuit  
8 judgeships and which may be allotted ~~to subcircuits 16, 17,~~  
9 ~~18, 19, and 20~~ in an election cycle shall be 10 ~~2~~ judgeships  
10 with each ~~per~~ subcircuit being allotted no more than 2  
11 resident circuit judgeships per election cycle. Any additional  
12 associate judgeship vacancies in excess of the maximum number  
13 per election cycle shall not be converted to resident circuit  
14 judgeships and shall be filled according to Supreme Court Rule  
15 39 until such time that a vacancy in the associate judgeship  
16 occurs. A vacancy occurs when an associate judge dies,  
17 resigns, retires, is removed, or is not reappointed upon  
18 expiration of his or her term; a vacancy does not occur at the  
19 expiration of a term if the associate judge is reappointed. As  
20 used in this subsection, "election cycle" means the period  
21 that begins on the day following the last day to certify  
22 judicial vacancies for election at the next general election  
23 and ends on the last day to certify judicial vacancies for  
24 election at the next general election, as provided in Section  
25 25-3 of the Election Code.

26 (c) The maximum number of associate judges authorized



1 under subsection (a) for the 17th judicial circuit shall be  
2 reduced as provided in this subsection (c). Due to the vacancy  
3 that exists on or after the effective date of this amendatory  
4 Act of the 93rd General Assembly in the associate judgeship  
5 that is converted into a resident judgeship under subsection  
6 (a-10) of Section 2f-6 of the Circuit Courts Act, the maximum  
7 number of judges authorized under subsection (a) of this  
8 Section shall be reduced by one. A vacancy exists or occurs  
9 when an associate judge dies, resigns, retires, is removed, or  
10 is not reappointed upon expiration of his or her term; a  
11 vacancy does not exist or occur at the expiration of a term if  
12 the associate judge is reappointed.

13 (d) The maximum number of associate judges authorized  
14 under subsection (a) for the 23rd judicial circuit shall be  
15 reduced as provided in this subsection (d). Due to the vacancy  
16 that exists on or after the effective date of this amendatory  
17 Act of the 98th General Assembly in the associate judgeship  
18 that is converted into a resident judgeship under subsection  
19 (k) of Section 2f-10 of the Circuit Courts Act, the maximum  
20 number of judges authorized under subsection (a) of this  
21 Section shall be reduced by one.

22 (Source: P.A. 102-693, eff. 1-7-22; 102-1126, eff. 2-10-23.)

23 Section 15. The Court Reporters Act is amended by changing  
24 Section 7 as follows:

1 (705 ILCS 70/7) (from Ch. 37, par. 657)

2 Sec. 7. Proficiency tests. Each court reporter may be  
3 required by the chief judge to ~~shall~~ take a test to verify his  
4 or her proficiency within one year of employment. The test  
5 shall be prepared and administered by the employer  
6 representative in consultation with each of the other employer  
7 representatives pursuant to standards set by rules. A  
8 proficiency test passed prior to employment may be accepted by  
9 the chief judge as proof of proficiency.

10 (Source: P.A. 101-581, eff. 1-1-20.)

11 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
12 becoming law.