

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL NO. 1173

By: Hall and Rosino of the
Senate

6 and

7 Wallace and Caldwell (Trey)
8 of the House

9
10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to courts; amending 20 O.S. 2021,
12 Section 122, which relates to number of special
13 judges in each judicial administrative district;
14 making language gender neutral; updating statutory
15 language; adding two special judges to be appointed
16 in certain district; providing an effective date; and
17 declaring an emergency.

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

19 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 20 O.S. 2021, Section 122, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 122. The number of special judges that may be appointed
22 in each judicial administrative district shall be determined as
23 follows:

24 1. A special judge shall be appointed on the basis of one
special judge for each county within the administrative district
with a population of at least twenty-four thousand (24,000), as

1 determined by the 1960 Federal Decennial Census. An additional
2 special judge shall be appointed for each additional fifty thousand
3 (50,000) in population in a county within the administrative
4 district, as determined by the 1960 Federal Decennial Census. Such
5 appointment may be made from any county in the administrative
6 district. Such appointments shall be made by the district judges in
7 their respective judicial administrative districts. Any judge of a
8 special sessions court shall be one of the special judges for the
9 balance of his or her term and shall be within the number prescribed
10 for ~~said~~ such district.

11 2. In addition to the special judges that may be appointed
12 pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this section, there
13 shall be:

14 a. one (1) special judge appointed in the Northwest-
15 Panhandle Judicial Administrative District comprised
16 of District Court Judicial Districts Numbers One (1),
17 Two (2) and Four (4), to serve in Custer County~~†~~†

18 b. one (1) special judge appointed in the Oklahoma-
19 Canadian Counties Judicial Administrative District
20 comprised of District Court Judicial District Number
21 Seven (7)~~†~~†

22 c. ~~three (3)~~ beginning July 1, 2024, five (5) special
23 judges appointed in the Tulsa-Pawnee Counties Judicial
24

1 Administrative District comprised of District Court
2 Judicial District Number Fourteen (14)†, 1

3 d. beginning January 11, 1999, one (1) special judge
4 appointed in the Northeastern Judicial Administrative
5 District comprised of District Court Judicial
6 Districts Numbers Ten (10), Eleven (11), Twelve (12)
7 and Thirteen (13), to serve in Rogers County†, 1

8 e. one (1) special judge appointed in the ~~North-Central~~
9 North-Central Judicial Administrative District
10 comprised of District Court Judicial District Numbers
11 Eight (8), Nine (9) and Twenty-three (23), to serve in
12 Lincoln and Pottawatomie Counties†, 1

13 f. beginning January 1, 2006, one (1) special judge
14 appointed in the ~~East-Central~~ East-Central Judicial
15 Administrative District comprised of District Court
16 Judicial District Numbers Fifteen (15), Eighteen (18)
17 and Twenty-four (24), to serve in Pittsburg and
18 McIntosh Counties†, 1

19 g. beginning January 1, 2006, one (1) special judge
20 appointed in the Northeastern Judicial Administrative
21 District comprised of District Court Judicial District
22 Numbers Ten (10), Eleven (11), Twelve (12) and
23 Thirteen (13), to serve in Washington County†, 1 and
24

1 h. beginning January 1, 2007, one (1) special judge
2 appointed in the Southeastern Judicial Administrative
3 District comprised of District Court Judicial District
4 Numbers Sixteen (16), Seventeen (17), Nineteen (19),
5 and Twenty-five (25), to serve in ~~LeFlore~~ Le Flore
6 County.

7 3. If a vacancy occurs in the office of associate district
8 judge, or if an associate district judge becomes unable to perform
9 the duties of his or her office, as determined by the presiding
10 judge of the judicial administrative district, a special judge may
11 be appointed within the judicial administrative district to hold
12 office for the duration of ~~said~~ such vacancy or incapacity. After
13 the vacancy is filled, or after the associate district judge becomes
14 able to perform the duties of his or her office, the special judge
15 shall have the power to act in regard to any case which he or she
16 has already tried, but the presiding judge of the judicial
17 administrative district may transfer such a case to any other judge
18 in the judicial administrative district.

19 4. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may authorize the
20 appointment of such additional special judges as may be necessary
21 for the proper administration of justice. Such additional special
22 judges shall be appointed after application by a majority of the
23 district judges of a judicial administrative district, stating the
24

1 reason why an additional special judge is needed. Such additional
2 judges need not be based upon population figures.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

4 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
5 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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