Short Title: Judicial Elections. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Sharpe; Sexton and Rayfield.

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Referred to: Judiciary I.

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April 12, 1995

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ELECTION OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES BY
3   JUDICIAL DISTRICT, AND TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DISTRICT
4   COURT DISTRICTS, SO AS TO INCREASE COMPLIANCE WITH SECTIONS 2
5   AND 5 OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 AND TO ENABLE
6   SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION.
7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
8   Section 1. The State of North Carolina has been engaged in extensive
9 litigation concerning election of superior court judges, there is potential litigation
10 concerning election of district court judges, and the State of North Carolina has been
11 unable to receive preclearance under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 for
12 legislation to add additional district court judges. This act is designed to eliminate and
13 avoid these problems, and to settle existing litigation.
14   Sec. 2. Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
15 section to read:
16 "**§ 7A-41.2. Nomination and election of regular superior court judges.**
17   Candidates for the office of regular superior court judge shall be both nominated and
18 elected by the qualified voters of the superior court district for which the election is
19 sought."

1   Sec. 3. G.S. 163-1 is amended in the table by deleting the word "State" in the
2   column entitled "Jurisdiction" under the entry for "Judges of the superior courts", and
3   substituting "Superior Court District".
4   Sec. 4. G.S. 163-140(a) reads as rewritten:
5   "(a)   Kinds of General Election Ballots; Right to Combine. – For purposes of
6   general elections, there shall be seven kinds of official ballots entitled:
7   (1)   Ballot for presidential electors
8   (2)   Ballot for United States Senator
9   (3)   Ballot for member of the United States House of Representatives
10   (4)   State ballot
11   (5)   County ballot
12   (6)   Repealed by Session Laws 1973, c. 793, s. 56.
13   (7)   Ballot for constitutional amendments and other propositions submitted
14   to the people.
15 Use of official ballots shall be limited to the purposes indicated by their titles. The
16 printing on all ballots shall be plain and legible but, unless large type is specified by this
17 section, type larger than 10-point shall not be used in printing ballots. All general election
18 ballots shall be prepared in such a way as to leave sufficient blank space beneath each
19 name printed thereon in which a voter may conveniently write the name of any person for
20 whom he may desire to vote.
21   Unless prohibited by this section, the board of elections, State or county, charged by
22 law with printing ballots may, in its discretion, combine any two or more official ballots.
23 Whenever two or more ballots are combined, the voting instructions for the State ballot
24 set out in subsection (b)(4) of this section shall be used, except that if the two ballots
25 being combined do not contain a multi-seat race, then the second sentence of instruction
26 b. shall not appear on the ballot.
27   Contests in the general election for seats in the State House of Representatives and
28 State Senate shall be on ballots that are separate from ballots containing non-legislative
29 contests, except where the voting system used makes separation of ballots impractical.
30 State House and State Senate contests shall be on the same ballot, unless one is a single-
31 seat contest and the other a multi-seat contest.
32 If the State Board of Elections divides the State ballot into two or more ballots, all All
33 candidates for superior court shall appear on the same ballot except that the State Board of
34 Elections appropriate board of elections may divide the election of superior court judges
35 into two ballots either because of length of the ballot or to provide a separate ballot for
36 multi-seat races but only superior court judges shall be on those ballots, and all
37 candidates for the Appellate Division shall appear on the same ballot."
38   Sec. 5. G.S. 163-140(b)(4) reads as rewritten:
39   "(4)   State Ballot: Beneath the title and general instructions set out in this
40   subsection, the ballot for single-seat contests for State officers, and for
41   all State officers where mechanical voting machines are used (including
42   judges of the superior court) shall be divided into parallel columns
43   separated by distinct black lines. The State Board of Elections shall

1 assign a separate column to each political party having candidates for
2 State offices and one to unaffiliated candidates, if any. At the head of
3 each party column the party's name shall be printed in large type, and at
4 the head of the column for unaffiliated candidates shall be printed in
5 large type the words 'Unaffiliated Candidates.' Below the party name in
6 each column shall be printed a circle, one-half inch in diameter, around
7 which shall be plainly printed the following instruction: 'For a straight
8 ticket, mark within this circle.' With distinct black lines, the State Board
9 of Elections shall divide the columns into horizontal sections and, in the
10 customary order of office, assign a separate section to each office or
11 group of offices to be filled. On a single line at the top of each section
12 shall be printed a direction as to the number of candidates for whom a
13 vote may be cast. If candidates are to be chosen for different terms to
14 the same office, the term in each instance shall be printed as part of the
15 title of the office.
16   The name or names of each political party's candidate or candidates
17 for each office listed on the ballot shall be printed in the appropriate
18 office section of the proper party column, and the names of unaffiliated
19 candidates shall be printed in the appropriate office section of the
20 column headed 'Unaffiliated Candidates.' At the left of each name shall
21 be printed a voting square, and in each column all voting squares shall
22 be arranged in a perpendicular line.
23   On the face of the ballot, above the party and unaffiliated column
24 division, the following instructions shall be printed in heavy black type,
25 and the words 'you must also' in instruction c. shall be underlined:
26 'a.   To vote for all candidates of one party (a straight ticket), make a
27   cross (X) mark in the circle of the party for whose candidates you
28   wish to vote.
29 b.   You may vote a split ticket by not marking a cross (X) mark in
30   the party circle, but by making a cross (X) mark in the square
31   opposite the name of each candidate for whom you wish to vote.
32 c.   You may also vote a split ticket by marking a cross (X) mark in
33   the party circle and then making a cross (X) mark in the square
34   opposite the name of any candidate you choose of a different
35   party. In any multi-seat race where a party circle is marked and
36   you vote for candidates of another party, you must also make a
37   cross (X) mark opposite the name of any candidate you choose of
38   the party for which you marked the party circle to assure your
39   vote will count.
40 d.   If you tear or deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and get
41   another.'
42   On the bottom of the ballot shall be printed an identified facsimile of
43 the signature of the Chairman of the State Board of Elections. If the

1   State ballot contains no multi-seat race, then the second sentence of
2   instruction b. shall not appear on the ballot."
3   Sec. 6. G.S. 163-140(b)(5) reads as rewritten:
4   "(5)   County Ballot: Beneath the title and general instructions set out in this
5   subsection, the ballot for single-seat contests for county officers
6   (including district attorney for the prosecutorial district in which the
7   county is situated, district judge for the district court district in which
8   the county is situated, regular resident superior court judge for the
9   superior court district in which the county or part thereof is situated, and
10   members of the General Assembly in the senatorial and representative
11   districts in which the county is situated), and for all county offices
12   where mechanical voting machines are used, shall be divided into
13   parallel columns separated by distinct black lines. The county board of
14   elections shall assign a separate column to each political party having
15   candidates for the offices on the ballot and one to unaffiliated
16   candidates, if any. At the head of each party column the party's name
17   shall be printed in large type and at the head of the column for
18   unaffiliated candidates shall be printed in large type the words
19   'Unaffiliated Candidates.' Below the party name in each column shall be
20   printed a circle, one-half inch in diameter, around which shall be plainly
21   printed the following instruction: 'For a straight ticket, mark within this
22   circle.' With distinct black lines, the county board of elections shall
23   divide the columns into horizontal sections and, in the customary order
24   of office, assign a separate section to each office or group of offices to
25   be filled. On a single line at the top of each section shall be printed the
26   title of the office, and directly below the title shall be printed a direction
27   as to the number of candidates for whom a vote may be cast. If
28   candidates are to be chosen for different terms to the same office, the
29   term in each instance shall be printed as part of the title of the office.
30   The name or names of each political party's candidate or candidates
31   for each office listed on the ballot shall be printed in the appropriate
32   office section of the proper party column, and the names of unaffiliated
33   candidates shall be printed in the appropriate office section of the
34   column headed 'Unaffiliated Candidates.' At the left of each name shall
35   be printed a voting square, and in each column all voting squares shall
36   be arranged in a perpendicular line.
37   On the face of the ballot, above the party and unaffiliated column
38   division, the following instructions shall be printed in heavy black type,
39   and the words 'you must also' in instruction c. shall be underlined:
40   'a.   To vote for all candidates of one party (a straight ticket), make a
41   cross (X) mark in the circle of the party for whose candidates you
42   wish to vote.

b.   You may vote a split ticket by not marking a cross (X) mark in the party circle, but by making a cross (X) mark in the square opposite the name of each candidate for whom you wish to vote.

c.   You may also vote a split ticket by marking a cross (X) mark in the party circle and then making a cross (X) mark in the square opposite the name of any candidate you choose of a different party. In any multi-seat race where a party circle is marked and you vote for candidates of another party, you must also make a cross (X) mark opposite the name of any candidate you choose of the party for which you marked the party circle to assure your vote will count.

d.   If you tear or deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and get another.'

On the bottom of the ballot shall be printed an identified facsimile of the signature of the chairman of the county board of elections. If the county ballot contains no multi-seat race, then the second sentence of instruction b. shall not appear on the ballot."

Sec. 7. G.S. 163-192 reads as rewritten:

"§ 163-192. State Board of Elections to prepare abstracts and declare results of primaries and elections.

(a)   After Primary. – At the conclusion of its canvass of the primary election, the State Board of Elections shall prepare separate abstracts of the votes cast:

(1)   For Governor and all State officers, justices of the Supreme Court, judges of the Court of Appeals, ~~judges of the superior court,~~ and United States Senators.

(2)   For members of the United States House of Representatives for the several congressional districts in the State.

(3)   For district court judges for the several district court districts in the State.

(3a)   <u>For superior court judges for the several superior court districts in the State.</u>

(4)   For district attorney in the several prosecutorial districts in the State.

(5)   For State Senators in the several senatorial districts in the State composed of more than one county.

(6)   For members of the State House of Representatives in the several representative districts in the State composed of more than one county.

Abstracts prepared by the State Board of Elections under this subsection shall state the total number of votes cast for each candidate of each political party for each of the various offices canvassed by the State Board of Elections. They shall also state the name or names of the person or persons whom the State Board of Elections shall ascertain and judicially determine by the count to be nominated for each office.

1   Abstracts prepared under this subsection shall be signed by the members of the State
2   Board of Elections in their official capacity and shall have the great seal of the State
3   affixed thereto.
4   (b)   After General Election. – At the conclusion of its canvass of the general
5   election, the State Board of Elections shall prepare abstracts of the votes cast:
6   (1)   For President and Vice-President of the United States, when an election
7   is held for those offices.
8   (2)   For Governor and all State officers, justices of the Supreme Court,
9   judges of the Court of Appeals, ~~judges of the superior court,~~ and United
10   States Senators.
11   (3)   For members of the United States House of Representatives for the
12   several congressional districts in the State.
13   (4)   For district court judges for the several district court districts as defined
14   in G.S. 7A-133 in the State.
15   (4a)   For superior court judges for the several superior court districts in the
16   State.
17   (5)   For district attorney in the several prosecutorial districts in the State.
18   (6)   For State Senators in the several senatorial districts in the State
19   composed of more than one county.
20   (7)   For members of the State House of Representatives in the several
21   representative districts in the State composed of more than one county.
22   (8)   For and against any constitutional amendments or propositions
23   submitted to the people.
24   Abstracts prepared by the State Board of Elections under this subsection shall state
25   the names of all persons voted for, the office for which each received votes, and the
26   number of legal ballots cast for each candidate for each office canvassed by the State
27   Board of Elections. They shall also state the name or names of the person or persons
28   whom the State Board of Elections shall ascertain and judicially determine by the count
29   to be elected to each office.
30   Abstracts prepared under this subsection shall be signed by the members of the State
31   Board of Elections in their official capacity and shall have the great seal of the State
32   affixed thereto.
33   (c)   Disposition of Abstracts of Returns. – The State Board of Elections shall file
34   with the Secretary of State the original abstracts of returns prepared by it under the
35   provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, and also the duplicate county
36   abstracts transmitted to the State Board of Elections under the provisions of G.S. 163-
37   177. Upon the request of the Legislative Services Office, the Secretary of State shall
38   submit a copy of the original abstracts to that Office."
39   Sec. 8. Article 18 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is amended by adding
40   a new section to read:
41   "**§ 7A-200. District and set of districts defined; senior chief district court judges and**
42   **their authority.**
43   (a)   In this section:

(1) 'District' means any district court district established by G.S. 7A-133 which consists exclusively of one or more entire counties;

(2) 'Set of districts' means any set of two or more district court districts established under G.S. 7A-133, none of which consists exclusively of one or more entire counties, but both or all of which include territory from the same county or counties and together comprise all of the territory of that county or those counties; and

(3) 'Chief district court judge' means in the case of a set of districts, the senior chief district court judge for those districts, designated by the chief justice from among the chief district court judges for the districts in the set of districts.

(b) Whenever by law a duty is imposed upon the chief district court judge, it means for a set of districts the senior chief district court judge designated under subsection (a)(3) of this section."

Sec. 9. Article 14 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 7A-149. Jurisdiction; sessions.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, district court judge of a district court district which is in a set of districts as defined by G.S. 7A-200 has jurisdiction in the entire county or counties in which the district is located to the same extent as if the district encompassed the entire county, and has jurisdiction in the entire set of districts to the same extent as if the district encompassed the entire set of districts.

(b) All sessions of district court shall be for an entire county, whether that county comprises or is located in a district or in a set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-200, and at each session all matters and proceedings arising anywhere in the county may be heard.

(c) All clerks of court for a county have jurisdiction over the entire county, notwithstanding that the county may be part of a set of districts."

Sec. 10. G.S. 7A-133 reads as rewritten:

"§ 7A-133. Numbers of judges by districts; numbers of magistrates and additional seats of court, by counties.

(a) Each district court district shall have the numbers of judges ~~and each county within the district shall have the numbers of magistrates and additional seats of court,~~ as set forth in the following table:

District	Judges	County	Magistrates Min. Max.		Additional Seats of Court
1	3	Camden	~~1~~	~~2~~	
		Chowan	~~2~~	~~3~~	
		Currituck	~~1~~	~~2~~	
		Dare	~~3~~	~~8~~	
		Gates	~~2~~	~~3~~	
		Pasquotank	~~3~~	~~4~~	

1			Perquimans	~~2~~	3	
2	2	3	Martin~~5~~	8		
3			Beaufort	4	~~8~~	
4			Tyrrell	~~1~~	3	
5			Hyde	~~2~~	4	
6			Washington	~~3~~	4	
7	3A	3	Pitt ~~10~~	~~12~~	~~Farmville~~	
8						~~Ayden~~
9	3B	4	Craven ~~7~~	~~10~~	~~Havelock~~	
10			Pamlico	~~2~~	3	
11			Carteret	~~5~~	8	
12	4	6	Sampson ~~6~~	~~8~~		
13			Duplin	9	~~11~~	
14			Jones	~~2~~	3	
15			Onslow	8	~~14~~	
16	5	6	New Hanover	~~6~~	~~11~~	
17			Pender	4	6	
18	6A	2	Halifax ~~9~~	~~14~~	~~Roanoke~~	
19						~~Rapids,~~
20						~~Scotland Neck~~
21	6B	3	Northampton ~~5~~	~~6~~		
22			Bertie	4	~~5~~	
23			Hertford	5	~~6~~	
24	7 <u>A</u>	~~6~~<u>2</u>	Nash ~~7~~	~~10~~	~~Rocky Mount~~	
25	<u>7B</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>(part of</u>	4	6	~~Rocky Mount~~
26			<u>Edgecombe</u>			
27			<u>see subsection (b))</u>			
28			<u>(part of Wilson</u>			
29			<u>see subsection (b))</u>			
30	<u>7C</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>part of</u> Wilson	4	~~6~~	
31			<u>see subsection (b))</u>			
32			<u>part of Edgecombe</u>			
33			<u>see subsection (b))</u>			
34	8	5	Wayne ~~5~~	~~11~~	~~Mount Olive~~	
35			Greene	2	4	
36			Lenoir	4	~~10~~	~~La Grange~~
37	9	4	Granville ~~3~~	~~7~~		
38			<u>(part of</u> Vance	3	5	
39			<u>see subsection (b))</u>			
40			~~Warren~~	3	4	
41			Franklin	3	6	
42	9A	2	Person~~3~~	4		
43			Caswell	2	~~5~~	

9B	1	Warren			
		(part of Vance			
		see subsection (b))			
10 A	~~12~~2	(part of Wake	~~12~~	~~20~~	~~Apex,~~
		see subsection (b))			~~Wendell,~~
					~~Fuquay-~~
					~~Varina,~~
					~~Wake Forest~~
10B	4	(part of Wake			
		see subsection (b))			
10C	3	(part of Wake			
		see subsection (b))			
10D	3	(part of Wake			
		see subsection (b))			
11	6	Harnett	~~7~~	~~11~~	~~Dunn~~
		Johnston	~~10~~	~~12~~	~~Benson,~~
					~~Clayton~~
					~~and Selma~~
		Lee	4	6	
12 A	~~7~~2	(part of	~~10~~	~~17~~	
		Cumberland see			
		subsection (b))			
12B	2	(part of Cumberland			
		see subsection (b))			
12C	3	(part of Cumberland			
		see subsection (b))			
13	4	Bladen	4	~~6~~	
		Brunswick	4	~~7~~	
		Columbus	6	~~8~~	~~Tabor City~~
14 A	~~5~~2	(part of Durham	8	~~12~~	
		see subsection (b))			
14B	3	(part of Durham			
		see subsection (b))			
15A	3	Alamance	~~7~~	~~10~~	~~Burlington~~
15B	3	Orange	~~4~~	~~11~~	~~Chapel Hill~~
		Chatham	~~3~~	~~8~~	~~Siler City~~
16A	2	Scotland	~~3~~	~~5~~	
		Hoke	4	~~5~~	
16B	5	Robeson	~~8~~	~~16~~	~~Fairmont,~~
					~~Maxton,~~
					~~Pembroke,~~
					~~Red Springs,~~
					~~Rowland,~~

						~~St. Pauls~~
17A	2		Rockingham	4	9	~~Reidsville,~~
						~~Eden,~~
						~~Madison~~
17B	3	Stokes ~~2~~	~~5~~			
			Surry	~~5~~	~~8~~	~~Mt. Airy~~
18 <u>A</u>	~~11~~2	<u>(part of</u> Guilford	~~20~~	~~26~~	~~High Point~~	
		<u>see subsection (b))</u>				
<u>18B</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>(part of Guilford</u>				
		<u>see subsection (b)</u>				
19A	3	Cabarrus	~~5~~	~~9~~	~~Kannapolis~~	
19B	3	Montgomery ~~2~~	~~4~~			
		Randolph	~~5~~	~~8~~	~~Liberty~~	
19C	3	Rowan ~~5~~	~~10~~			
20	6	Stanly ~~5~~	~~6~~			
		Union	4	6		
		Anson	4	~~5~~		
		Richmond	5	6	~~Hamlet~~	
		Moore	5	8	~~Southern~~	
						~~Pines~~
21 <u>A</u>	~~7~~2	<u>(part of</u> Forsyth	~~3~~	~~15~~	~~Kernersville~~	
		<u>see subsection (b)</u>				
<u>21B</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>(part of Forsyth</u>				
		<u>see subsection (b)</u>				
<u>21C</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>(part of Forsyth</u>				
		<u>see subsection (b)</u>				
<u>21D</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>(part of Forsyth</u>				
		<u>see subsection (b)</u>				
22	7	Alexander ~~2~~	~~3~~			
		Davidson	~~7~~	~~10~~	~~Thomasville~~	
		Davie	~~2~~	~~3~~		
		Iredell	~~4~~	~~9~~	~~Mooresville~~	
23	3	Alleghany ~~1~~	~~2~~			
		Ashe	~~3~~	~~4~~		
		Wilkes	~~4~~	~~6~~		
		Yadkin	~~3~~	~~5~~		
24	3	Avery ~~3~~	~~4~~			
		Madison	~~4~~	~~5~~		
		Mitchell	~~3~~	~~4~~		
		Watauga	~~4~~	~~6~~		
		Yancey	~~2~~	~~4~~		
25	7	Burke ~~4~~	~~7~~			
		Caldwell	~~4~~	~~7~~		

			Catawba	6	~~10~~	~~Hickory~~
26 A	~~14~~4	(part of	~~15~~	26		
			Mecklenburg			
			see subsection (b)			
26B	5	(part of Mecklenburg				
			see subsection (b)			
26C	5	(part of Mecklenburg				
			see subsection (b)			
27A	5	Gaston	~~11~~	20		
27B	4	Cleveland	~~5~~	8		
			Lincoln	4	6	
28	5	Buncombe	6	~~15~~		
29	4	Henderson	4	6		
			McDowell	3	5	
			Polk	3	4	
			Rutherford	6	8	
			Transylvania	2	4	
30	4	Cherokee	~~3~~	4		
			Clay	~~1~~	2	
			Graham	2	3	
			Haywood	~~5~~	7	~~Canton~~
			Jackson	3	4	
			Macon	3	4	
			Swain	2	3.	

(b)   For district court districts of less than a whole county, or with part or all of one county with part of another, the composition of the district is as follows:

(1)   District Court District 7B is the same as Superior Court District 7B.

(2)   District Court District 7C is the same as Superior Court District 7C.

(3)   District Court District 7B is the same as Superior Court District 7B.

(4)   District Court District 9 consists of Franklin and Granville Counties and the remainder of Vance County not in District Court District 9B.

(5)   District Court District 9B consists of Warren County and Middleburg, Townsville and Williamsboro Precincts of Vance County.

(6)   District Court District 10A is the same as Superior Court District 10A.

(7)   District Court District 10B is the same as Superior Court District 10B.

(8)   District Court District 10C is the same as Superior Court District 10C.

(9)   District Court District 10D is the same as Superior Court District 10D.

(10)   District Court District 12A is the same as Superior Court District 12A.

(11)   District Court District 12B is the same as Superior Court District 12B.

(12)   District Court District 12C is the same as Superior Court District 12C.

(13)   District Court District 14A is the same as Superior Court District 14A.

(14)   District Court District 14B is the same as Superior Court District 14B.

(15)   District Court District 18A is the same as Superior Court District 18A.

1   (16)   District Court District 18B is remainder of Guilford County not in
2   District Court District 18A.
3   (17)   District Court District 21A is the same as Superior Court District 21B.
4   (18)   District Court District 21B is the same as Superior Court District 21B.
5   (19)   District Court District 21C is the same as Superior Court District 21C.
6   (20)   District Court District 21D is the same as Superior Court District 21D.
7   (21)   District Court District 26A is the same as Superior Court District 26A.
8   (22)   District Court District 26B is the same as Superior Court District 26B.
9   (23)   District Court District 26C is the same as Superior Court District 26C.
10   Precinct boundaries as used in this section for Vance County are those shown on maps
11 on file with the Legislative Services Office on May 1, 1991, and for other counties are
12 those reported by the United States Bureau of the Census under Public Law 94-171 for
13 the 1990 Census in the IVTD Version of the TIGER files.
14   (c)   Each county shall have the numbers of magistrates and additional seats of
15 district court, as set forth in the following table:

County	Magistrates Min.-Max.		Additional Seats of Court
Camden	1	2	
Chowan	2	3	
Currituck	1	2	
Dare	3	8	
Gates	2	3	
Pasquotank	3	4	
Perquimans	2	3	
Martin	5	8	
Beaufort	4	8	
Tyrrell	1	3	
Hyde	2	4	
Washington	3	4	
Pitt	10	12	Farmville
			Ayden
Craven	7	10	Havelock
Pamlico	2	3	
Carteret	5	8	
Sampson	6	8	
Duplin	9	11	
Jones	2	3	
Onslow	8	14	
New Hanover	6	11	
Pender	4	6	
Halifax	9	14	Roanoke

1					Rapids,
2					Scotland Neck
3	Northampton	5	6		
4	Bertie	4	5		
5	Hertford	5	6		
6	Nash		7	10	Rocky Mount
7	Edgecombe	4	6	Rocky Mount	
8	Wilson	4	6		
9	Wayne		5	11	Mount Olive
10	Greene	2	4		
11	Lenoir	4	10	La Grange	
12	Granville		3	7	
13	Vance	3	5		
14	Warren	3	4		
15	Franklin	3	6		
16	Person		3	4	
17	Caswell	2	5		
18	Wake		12	20	Apex,
19					Wendell,
20					Fuquay-
21					Varina,
22					Wake Forest
23	Harnett		7	11	Dunn
24	Johnston	10	12	Benson,	
25					Clayton
26					and Selma
27	Lee	4	6		
28	Cumberland		10	17	
29	Bladen		4	6	
30	Brunswick	4	7		
31	Columbus	6	8	Tabor City	
32	Durham		8	12	
33	Alamance		7	10	Burlington
34	Orange		4	11	Chapel Hill
35	Chatham	3	8	Siler City	
36	Scotland		3	5	
37	Hoke	4	5		
38	Robeson		8	16	Fairmont,
39					Maxton,
40					Pembroke,
41					Red Springs,
42					Rowland,
43					St. Pauls

Line	County			City
1	Rockingham	4	9	Reidsville,
2				Eden,
3				Madison
4	Stokes	2	5	
5	Surry	5	8	Mt. Airy
6	Guilford	20	26	High Point
7	Cabarrus	5	9	Kannapolis
8	Montgomery	2	4	
9	Randolph	5	8	Liberty
10	Rowan	5	10	
11	Stanly	5	6	
12	Union	4	6	
13	Anson	4	5	
14	Richmond	5	6	Hamlet
15	Moore	5	8	Southern
16				Pines
17	Forsyth	3	15	Kernersville
18	Alexander	2	3	
19	Davidson	7	10	Thomasville
20	Davie	2	3	
21	Iredell	4	9	Mooresville
22	Alleghany	1	2	
23	Ashe	3	4	
24	Wilkes	4	6	
25	Yadkin	3	5	
26	Avery	3	4	
27	Madison	4	5	
28	Mitchell	3	4	
29	Watauga	4	6	
30	Yancey	2	4	
31	Burke	4	7	
32	Caldwell	4	7	
33	Catawba	6	10	Hickory
34	Mecklenburg	15	26	
35	Gaston	11	20	
36	Cleveland	5	8	
37	Lincoln	4	6	
38	Buncombe	6	15	
39	Henderson	4	6	
40	McDowell	3	5	
41	Polk	3	4	
42	Rutherford	6	8	
43	Transylvania	2	4	

1	Cherokee 3	4	
2	Clay 1	2	
3	Graham 2	3	
4	Haywood 5	7	Canton
5	Jackson 3	4	
6	Macon 3	4	
7	Swain 2	3."	

8   Sec. 11. (a)   The total number of judges shown for existing law for District Court
9 Districts 12 and 18 include those authorized by Section 200.6 of Chapter 321 of the 1993
10 Session Laws which have not yet been approved under Section 5 of the Voting Rights
11 Act of 1965.
12   (b)   Section 10 of this act does not affect the right of any judge to finish the term of
13 office for which elected.
14   Sec. 12. (a)   G.S. 7A-142 reads as rewritten:
15 **"§ 7A-142. Vacancies in office.**
16   A vacancy in the office of district judge shall be filled for the unexpired term by
17 appointment of the Governor from Governor. The Governor may appoint any resident of
18 the district court district who is duly authorized to practice law in the district after
19 considering nominations submitted by the bar of the judicial district as defined in G.S.
20 84-19. 84-19 and any nominations submitted by other interested persons or organizations.
21 If the district court district is comprised of counties in more than one judicial district, the
22 nominees shall be submitted jointly by the bars of those judicial districts, but only those
23 members who reside in the district court district shall participate in the selection of the
24 nominees. If the district court judge was elected as the nominee of a political party, then the
25 The district bar shall submit to the Governor the names of not fewer than three persons
26 who are residents of the district court district who are duly authorized to practice law in
27 the district and who are members of the same political party as the vacating judge; district;
28 provided that if there are not three persons who are available, the bar shall submit the
29 names of two persons who meet the qualifications of this sentence. Within 60 days after the
30 district bar submits nominations for a vacancy, the Governor shall appoint to fill the vacancy. If
31 the Governor fails to appoint a district bar nominee within 60 days, then the district bar nominee
32 who received the highest number of votes from the district bar shall fill the vacancy. If the
33 district bar fails to submit nominations within 30 days from the date the vacancy occurs,
34 the Governor may appoint to fill the vacancy without waiting for nominations."
35   (b)   This section is effective upon ratification and applies to all district court
36 vacancies occurring on or after that date.
37   Sec. 13. The provisions of this act are severable. If any provision of this act is
38 held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other
39 provisions of the act that can be given effect without the invalid provision.
40   Sec. 14. This act is effective upon ratification.