

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

SENATE BILL 1825

By: Merrick

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to courts; amending 20 O.S. 2021, Section 122, which relates to special judges; limiting duration of certain appointments; authorizing appointment in different judicial district; and providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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 determined by the 1960 Federal Decennial Census. An additional special judge shall be appointed for each additional fifty thousand (50,000) in population in a county within the administrative district, as determined by the 1960 Federal Decennial Census. Such

1 appointment may be made from any county in the administrative
2 district. Such appointments shall be made by the district judges in
3 their respective judicial administrative districts. Any judge of a
4 special sessions court shall be one of the special judges for the
5 balance of his term and shall be within the number prescribed for
6 said district.

7 2. In addition to the special judges that may be appointed
8 pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this section, there
9 shall be:

- 10 a. one (1) special judge appointed in the Northwest-
11 Panhandle Judicial Administrative District comprised
12 of District Court Judicial Districts Numbers One (1),
13 Two (2) and Four (4), to serve in Custer County~~†~~L
- 14 b. one (1) special judge appointed in the Oklahoma-
15 Canadian Counties Judicial Administrative District
16 comprised of District Court Judicial District Number
17 Seven (7)~~†~~L
- 18 c. three (3) special judges appointed in the Tulsa-Pawnee
19 Counties Judicial Administrative District comprised of
20 District Court Judicial District Number Fourteen
21 (14)~~†~~L
- 22 d. beginning January 11, 1999, one (1) special judge
23 appointed in the Northeastern Judicial Administrative
24 District comprised of District Court Judicial

Districts Numbers Ten (10), Eleven (11), Twelve (12) and Thirteen (13), to serve in Rogers County~~†~~L

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

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

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

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

3. If a vacancy occurs in the office of associate district judge, or if an associate district judge becomes unable to perform

1 the duties of his office, as determined by the presiding judge of
2 the judicial administrative district, a special judge may be
3 appointed within the judicial administrative district to hold office
4 for the duration of said vacancy or incapacity. After the vacancy
5 is filled, or after the associate district judge becomes able to
6 perform the duties of his office, the special judge shall have the
7 power to act in regard to any case which he has already tried, but
8 the presiding judge of the judicial administrative district may
9 transfer such a case to any other judge in the judicial
10 administrative district.

11 4. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may authorize the
12 appointment of such additional special judges as may be necessary
13 for the proper administration of justice. Such additional special
14 judges shall be appointed after application by a majority of the
15 district judges of a judicial administrative district, stating the
16 reason why an additional special judge is needed. Such additional
17 judges need not be based upon population figures.

18 5. An appointment of a special judge may not exceed two (2)
19 years. After a two-year appointment, a special judge may be
20 reappointed by another district judge or in another judicial
21 district.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.
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