

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                               STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                               2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

4   ENGROSSED SENATE  
5   BILL NO. 1173

                              By: Hall and Rosino of the  
                                      Senate

6   and

7   Wallace and Caldwell (Trey)  
8   of the House

9  
10           An Act relating to courts; amending 20 O.S. 2021,  
11           Section 122, which relates to number of special  
12           judges in each judicial administrative district;  
13           making language gender neutral; updating statutory  
14           language; adding two special judges to be appointed  
15           in certain district; providing an effective date; and  
16           declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

23           1. A special judge shall be appointed on the basis of one  
24           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

- Administrative District comprised of District Court Judicial District Number Fourteen (14)~~+~~L
- d. beginning January 11, 1999, one (1) special judge appointed in the Northeastern Judicial Administrative 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~~ 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~~ 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

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.

8

9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
10 AND BUDGET, dated 05/27/2024 - DO PASS, As Amended.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24