COMMITTEE AMENDMENT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend HB2771 _____

                                          Of the printed Bill
Page _____   Section _____   Lines _____
                                          Of the Engrossed Bill

By deleting the content of the entire measure, and by inserting in lieu
thereof the following language:

AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS

                              Amendment submitted by: Trey Caldwell

Adopted: _____   _____

_____
                Reading Clerk

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

PROPOSED COMMITTEE
SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2771   By: Caldwell (Trey) and Kane of
                                            the House

                                       and

                                       Hall and Haste of the
                                       Senate

PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to courts; amending 20 O.S. 2021,
Section 122, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 430,
O.S.L. 2024 (20 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 122), which
relates to special judges; increasing the number of
special judges in specific counties; determining a
date certain for the increase; amending 20 O.S. 2021,
Section 92.8a, which relates to the number of
authorized district judges in District Court Judicial
District 7, increasing from 15 judges to 16 judges;
making additional judge at large; amending 20 O.S.
2021, Section 92.27, which relates to the number of
authorized district judges in District Court Judicial
District 26, increasing from 2 judges to 3 judges;
making additional judge at large; providing an
effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1.   AMENDATORY   20 O.S. 2021, Section 122, as

amended by Section 1, Chapter 430, O.S.L. 2024 (20 O.S. Supp. 2024,

Section 122), is amended to read as follows:

1   The number of special judges that may be appointed in each

2 judicial administrative district shall be determined as follows:

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

4 special judge for each county within the administrative district

5 with a population of at least twenty-four thousand (24,000), as

6 determined by the 1960 Federal Decennial Census. An additional

7 special judge shall be appointed for each additional fifty thousand

8 (50,000) in population in a county within the administrative

9 district, as determined by the 1960 Federal Decennial Census. Such

10 appointment may be made from any county in the administrative

11 district. Such appointments shall be made by the district judges in

12 their respective judicial administrative districts. Any judge of a

13 special sessions court shall be one of the special judges for the

14 balance of his or her term and shall be within the number prescribed

15 for such district.

16   2. In addition to the special judges that may be appointed

17 pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this section, there

18 shall be:

19   a.   one (1) special judge appointed in the Northwest-

20   Panhandle Judicial Administrative District comprised

21   of District Court Judicial Districts Numbers One (1),

22   Two (2) and Four (4), to serve in Custer County,

23   b.   ~~one (1)~~ beginning July 1, 2025, two (2) special ~~judge~~

24   judges appointed in the Oklahoma-Canadian Counties

1   Judicial Administrative District comprised of District

2   Court Judicial District Number Seven (7),

3   c. beginning July 1, 2024, five (5) special judges

4   appointed in the Tulsa-Pawnee Counties Judicial

5   Administrative District comprised of District Court

6   Judicial District Number Fourteen (14),

7   d. beginning January 11, 1999, one (1) special judge

8   appointed in the Northeastern Judicial Administrative

9   District comprised of District Court Judicial

10   Districts Numbers Ten (10), Eleven (11), Twelve (12)

11   and Thirteen (13), to serve in Rogers County,

12   e. one (1) special judge appointed in the North-Central

13   Judicial Administrative District comprised of District

14   Court Judicial District Numbers Eight (8), Nine (9)

15   and Twenty-three (23), to serve in Lincoln and

16   Pottawatomie Counties,

17   f. beginning January 1, 2006, one (1) special judge

18   appointed in the East-Central Judicial Administrative

19   District comprised of District Court Judicial District

20   Numbers Fifteen (15), Eighteen (18) and Twenty-four

21   (24), to serve in Pittsburg and McIntosh Counties,

22   g. beginning January 1, 2006, one (1) special judge

23   appointed in the Northeastern Judicial Administrative

24   District comprised of District Court Judicial District

1	Numbers Ten (10), Eleven (11), Twelve (12) and
2	Thirteen (13), to serve in Washington County, and
3	h. beginning January 1, 2007, one (1) special judge
4	appointed in the Southeastern Judicial Administrative
5	District comprised of District Court Judicial District
6	Numbers Sixteen (16), Seventeen (17), Nineteen (19),
7	and Twenty-five (25), to serve in Le Flore County.
8	3. If a vacancy occurs in the office of associate district
9	judge, or if an associate district judge becomes unable to perform
10	the duties of his or her office, as determined by the presiding
11	judge of the judicial administrative district, a special judge may
12	be appointed within the judicial administrative district to hold
13	office for the duration of such vacancy or incapacity. After the
14	vacancy is filled, or after the associate district judge becomes
15	able to perform the duties of his or her office, the special judge
16	shall have the power to act in regard to any case which he or she
17	has already tried, but the presiding judge of the judicial
18	administrative district may transfer such a case to any other judge
19	in the judicial administrative district.
20	4. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may authorize the
21	appointment of such additional special judges as may be necessary
22	for the proper administration of justice. Such additional special
23	judges shall be appointed after application by a majority of the
24	district judges of a judicial administrative district, stating the

1 reason why an additional special judge is needed. Such additional

2 judges need not be based upon population figures.

3   SECTION 2.   AMENDATORY   20 O.S. 2021, Section 92.8a, is

4 amended to read as follows:

5   Section 92.8a. ~~Beginning January 11, 1999~~ After completion of

6 the election held in 2026, District Court Judicial District No. 7

7 shall have an increase from fifteen (15) to sixteen (16) district

8 judges.

9   For elections held after 1994, district judges shall be

10 nominated and elected as follows: candidates for office Nos. 1 and

11 9 shall be nominated and elected from and be legal residents of

12 electoral Division No. 1, candidates for office Nos. 3 and 10 shall

13 be nominated and elected from and be legal residents of electoral

14 Division No. 2, candidates for office Nos. 2 and 11 shall be

15 nominated and elected from and be legal residents of electoral

16 Division No. 3, candidates for office Nos. 4 and 12 shall be

17 nominated and elected from and be legal residents of electoral

18 Division No. 4, and candidates for office Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 13 and 14

19 shall be nominated and elected at large. Beginning with elections

20 held in 1998, candidates for office No. 15 shall be nominated and

21 elected at large. Beginning with the election held in 2026,

22 candidates for office No. 16 shall be nominated and elected at

23 large.

24

1   SECTION 3.   AMENDATORY   20 O.S. 2021, Section 92.27, is

2 amended to read as follows:

3   Section 92.27. A. For elections before January 1, 2018, the

4 district shall have one (1) district judge to be nominated and

5 elected at large.

6   B. For elections occurring on or after January 1, 2018, the

7 district shall have two (2) district judges to be nominated and

8 elected at large.

9   C. For elections occurring on or after January 1, 2026, the

10 district shall have three (3) district judges to be nominated and

11 elected at large.

12   SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

13   SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation

14 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby

15 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and

16 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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18   60-1-13772   JM   05/18/25

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