

FILED

2015 MAR 24 P 5:09

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
EIGHTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

REGULAR SESSION, 2015



ENROLLED

Senate Bill No. 479

(BY SENATORS TRUMP, CARMICHAEL, MAYNARD, MILLER,
WOELFEL, SNYDER, FERNS, PALUMBO, NOHE, BEACH, GAUNCH,
KARNES, D. HALL, KIRKENDOLL, ROMANO, WILLIAMS AND
LEONHARDT)

[PASSED MARCH 13, 2015; IN EFFECT NINETY DAYS FROM PASSAGE.]

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LEONHARDT)

[Passed March 13, 2015; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §51-2A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to adding family court judges to certain family court circuits of the state; providing for terms of office; and providing for election of new family court judges at the regular elections held in the year 2016.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §51-2A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2A. FAMILY COURTS.

§51-2A-3. Number of family court judges; assignment of family court judges by family court circuits.

- 1 (a) Beginning on January 1, 2009, forty-five family court
- 2 judges shall serve throughout the state, allocated among a
- 3 total of twenty-seven family court circuits as follows:

4 (1) The counties of Brooke, Hancock and Ohio shall
5 constitute the first family court circuit and have two family
6 court judges;

7 (2) The counties of Marshall, Wetzel and Tyler shall
8 constitute the second family court circuit and have one family
9 court judge;

10 (3) The counties of Pleasants and Wood shall constitute
11 the third family court circuit and have two family court
12 judges;

13 (4) The counties of Roane, Calhoun, Gilmer and Ritchie
14 shall constitute the fourth family court circuit and have one
15 family court judge;

16 (5) The counties of Mason, Jackson and Wirt shall
17 constitute the fifth family court circuit and have two family
18 court judges;

19 (6) The county of Cabell shall constitute the sixth family
20 court circuit and have two family court judges;

21 (7) The county of Wayne shall constitute the seventh
22 family court circuit and have one family court judge;

23 (8) The county of Mingo shall constitute the eighth
24 family court circuit and have one family court judge;

25 (9) The county of Logan shall constitute the ninth family
26 court circuit and have two family court judges;

27 (10) The counties of Lincoln and Boone shall constitute
28 the tenth family court circuit and have two family court
29 judges;

30 (11) The county of Kanawha shall constitute the eleventh
31 family court circuit and have five family court judges;

32 (12) The counties of McDowell and Mercer shall
33 constitute the twelfth family court circuit and have three
34 family court judges;

35 (13) The counties of Raleigh, Summers and Wyoming
36 shall constitute the thirteenth family court circuit and have
37 three family court judges;

38 (14) The county of Fayette shall constitute the fourteenth
39 family court circuit and have one family court judge;

40 (15) The counties of Greenbrier and Monroe shall
41 constitute the fifteenth family court circuit and have one
42 family court judge;

43 (16) The counties of Clay and Nicholas shall constitute
44 the sixteenth family court circuit and have one family court
45 judge;

46 (17) The counties of Braxton, Lewis and Upshur shall
47 constitute the seventeenth family court circuit and have one
48 family court judge;

49 (18) The counties of Harrison and Doddridge shall
50 constitute the eighteenth family court circuit and have two
51 family court judges;

52 (19) The county of Marion shall constitute the nineteenth
53 family court circuit and have one family court judge;

54 (20) The counties of Monongalia and Preston shall
55 constitute the twentieth family court circuit and have two
56 family court judges;

57 (21) The counties of Barbour and Taylor shall constitute
58 the twenty-first family court circuit and have one family court
59 judge;

60 (22) The counties of Tucker and Randolph shall
61 constitute the twenty-second family court circuit and have
62 one family court judge;

63 (23) The counties of Mineral, Hampshire and Morgan
64 shall constitute the twenty-third family court circuit and have
65 one family court judge;

66 (24) The counties of Berkeley and Jefferson shall
67 constitute the twenty-fourth family court circuit and have
68 three family court judges;

69 (25) The counties of Hardy, Pendleton and Grant shall
70 constitute the twenty-fifth family court circuit and have one
71 family court judge;

72 (26) The county of Putnam shall constitute the
73 twenty-sixth family court circuit and have one family court
74 judge; and

75 (27) The counties of Webster and Pocahontas shall
76 constitute the twenty-seventh family court circuit and have
77 one family court judge.

78 (b) Beginning on January 1, 2017, forty-seven family
79 court judges shall serve throughout the state, allocated among
80 a total of twenty-seven family court circuits as follows:

81 (1) The counties of Brooke, Hancock and Ohio shall
82 constitute the first family court circuit and have two family
83 court judges;

84 (2) The counties of Marshall, Wetzel and Tyler shall
85 constitute the second family court circuit and have one family
86 court judge;

87 (3) The counties of Pleasants and Wood shall constitute
88 the third family court circuit and have two family court
89 judges;

90 (4) The counties of Roane, Calhoun, Gilmer and Ritchie
91 shall constitute the fourth family court circuit and have one
92 family court judge;

93 (5) The counties of Mason, Jackson and Wirt shall
94 constitute the fifth family court circuit and have two family
95 court judges;

96 (6) The county of Cabell shall constitute the sixth family
97 court circuit and have three family court judges;

98 (7) The county of Wayne shall constitute the seventh
99 family court circuit and have one family court judge;

100 (8) The county of Mingo shall constitute the eighth
101 family court circuit and have one family court judge;

102 (9) The county of Logan shall constitute the ninth family
103 court circuit and have two family court judges;

104 (10) The counties of Lincoln and Boone shall constitute
105 the tenth family court circuit and have two family court
106 judges;

107 (11) The county of Kanawha shall constitute the eleventh
108 family court circuit and have five family court judges;

109 (12) The counties of McDowell and Mercer shall
110 constitute the twelfth family court circuit and have three
111 family court judges;

112 (13) The counties of Raleigh, Summers and Wyoming
113 shall constitute the thirteenth family court circuit and have
114 three family court judges;

115 (14) The county of Fayette shall constitute the fourteenth
116 family court circuit and have one family court judge;

117 (15) The counties of Greenbrier and Monroe shall
118 constitute the fifteenth family court circuit and have one
119 family court judge;

120 (16) The counties of Clay and Nicholas shall constitute
121 the sixteenth family court circuit and have one family court
122 judge;

123 (17) The counties of Braxton, Lewis and Upshur shall
124 constitute the seventeenth family court circuit and have one
125 family court judge;

126 (18) The counties of Harrison and Doddridge shall
127 constitute the eighteenth family court circuit and have two
128 family court judges;

129 (19) The county of Marion shall constitute the nineteenth
130 family court circuit and have one family court judge;

131 (20) The counties of Monongalia and Preston shall
132 constitute the twentieth family court circuit and have two
133 family court judges;

134 (21) The counties of Barbour and Taylor shall constitute
135 the twenty-first family court circuit and have one family court
136 judge;

137 (22) The counties of Tucker and Randolph shall
138 constitute the twenty-second family court circuit and have
139 one family court judge;

140 (23) The counties of Mineral, Hampshire and Morgan
141 shall constitute the twenty-third family court circuit and have
142 two family court judges;

143 (24) The counties of Berkeley and Jefferson shall
144 constitute the twenty-fourth family court circuit and have
145 three family court judges;

146 (25) The counties of Hardy, Pendleton and Grant shall
147 constitute the twenty-fifth family court circuit and have one
148 family court judge;

149 (26) The county of Putnam shall constitute the
150 twenty-sixth family court circuit and have one family court
151 judge; and

152 (27) The counties of Webster and Pocahontas shall
153 constitute the twenty-seventh family court circuit and have
154 one family court judge.

155 (c) Family court judges taking office January 1, 2017,
156 shall be elected at the regularly scheduled election(s)
157 occurring in the year 2016 and shall serve for a term of eight
158 years.

159 (d) The Legislature has the authority and may determine
160 to realign the family court circuits and has the authority and
161 may determine to increase or decrease the number of family
162 court judges within a family court circuit, from time to time.
163 Any person appointed or elected to the office of family court
164 judge acknowledges the authority of the Legislature to
165 realign family court circuits and the authority of the

**166 Legislature to increase or decrease the number of family
167 court judges within a family court circuit.**

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Paul P. Hayward
.....
Chairman Senate Committee

Dr. B. Hill
.....
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clark A. Barnes
.....
Clerk of the Senate

Stephen D. Harris
.....
Clerk of the House of Delegates

Milt. P. ...
.....
President of the Senate

Philip ...
.....
Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within *is approved* this the *24th*
March
Day of 2015.

Earl Ray Tomber
.....
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

MAR 23 2015

Time 10:51 AM