

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4199

To authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 19, 2024

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Judicial Understaffing
5 Delays Getting Emergencies Solved Act of 2024” or the
6 “JUDGES Act of 2024”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Article III of the Constitution of the United
2 States gives Congress the power to establish judge-
3 ships in the district courts of the United States.

4 (2) Congress has not created a new district
5 court judgeship since 2003 and has not enacted
6 comprehensive judgeship legislation since 1990.

7 (3) This represents the longest period of time
8 since district courts of the United States were estab-
9 lished in 1789 that Congress has not authorized any
10 new permanent district court judgeships.

11 (4) By the end of fiscal year 2022, filings in the
12 district courts of the United States had increased by
13 30 percent since the last comprehensive judgeship
14 legislation.

15 (5) As of March 31, 2023, there were 686,797
16 pending cases in the district courts of the United
17 States, with an average of 491 weighted case filings
18 per judgeship over a 12-month period.

19 (6) To deal with increased filings in the district
20 courts of the United States, the Judicial Conference
21 of the United States requested the creation of 66
22 new district court judgeships in its 2023 report.

23 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGES FOR THE DISTRICT**
24 **COURTS.**

25 (a) **ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIPS.—**

1 (1) 2025.—On or after January 21, 2025, the
2 President shall appoint, by and with the advice and
3 consent of the Senate—

4 (A) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
5 trict of Arizona;

6 (B) 5 additional district judges for the cen-
7 tral district of California;

8 (C) 2 additional district judges for the
9 eastern district of California;

10 (D) 3 additional district judges for the
11 northern district of California;

12 (E) 1 additional district judge for the
13 southern district of California;

14 (F) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
15 trict of Colorado;

16 (G) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
17 trict of Delaware;

18 (H) 2 additional district judges for the
19 middle district of Florida;

20 (I) 1 additional district judge for the
21 southern district of Florida;

22 (J) 1 additional district judge for the
23 northern district of Georgia;

24 (K) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
25 trict of Idaho;

1 (L) 1 additional district judge for the
2 southern district of Indiana;

3 (M) 1 additional district judge for the
4 northern district of Iowa;

5 (N) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
6 trict of Nebraska;

7 (O) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
8 trict of New Jersey;

9 (P) 1 additional district judge for the east-
10 ern district of New York;

11 (Q) 1 additional district judge for the
12 southern district of New York;

13 (R) 1 additional district judge for the east-
14 ern district of Texas;

15 (S) 1 additional district judge for the
16 northern district of Texas;

17 (T) 2 additional district judges for the
18 southern district of Texas; and

19 (U) 3 additional district judges for the
20 western district of Texas.

21 (2) 2029.—On or after January 21, 2029, the
22 President shall appoint, by and with the advice and
23 consent of the Senate—

24 (A) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
25 trict of Arizona;

1 (B) 4 additional district judges for the cen-
2 tral district of California;

3 (C) 2 additional district judge for the east-
4 ern district of California;

5 (D) 3 additional district judges for the
6 northern district of California;

7 (E) 1 additional district judge for the
8 southern district of California;

9 (F) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
10 trict of Colorado;

11 (G) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
12 trict of Delaware;

13 (H) 3 additional district judges for the
14 middle district of Florida;

15 (I) 1 additional district judge for the
16 northern district of Florida;

17 (J) 2 additional district judges for the
18 southern district of Florida;

19 (K) 1 additional district judge for the
20 northern district of Georgia;

21 (L) 2 additional district judges for the dis-
22 trict of New Jersey;

23 (M) 1 additional district judge for the
24 eastern district of New York;

1 (N) 1 additional district judge for the
2 southern district of New York;

3 (O) 1 additional district judge for the
4 western district of New York;

5 (P) 1 additional district judge for the east-
6 ern district of Texas;

7 (Q) 2 additional district judge for the
8 southern district of Texas; and

9 (R) 3 additional district judges for the
10 western district of Texas.

11 (b) TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint,
13 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

14 (A) 2 additional district judges for the
15 eastern district of Oklahoma; and

16 (B) 1 additional district judge for the
17 northern district of Oklahoma.

18 (2) VACANCIES NOT FILLED.—The first va-
19 cancy in the office of district judge in each of the
20 offices of district judge authorized by this sub-
21 section, occurring 5 years or more after the con-
22 firmation date of the judge named to fill the tem-
23 porary district judgeship created in the applicable
24 district by this subsection, shall not be filled.

1 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall
2 take effect on January 21, 2025.

3 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
4 The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United
5 States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by striking the item relating to Arizona and
7 inserting the following:

“Arizona 14”;

8 (2) by striking the items relating to California
9 and inserting the following:

“California:
Northern 20
Eastern 10
Central 36
Southern 15”;

10 (3) by striking the item relating to Colorado
11 and inserting the following:

“Colorado 9”;

12 (4) by striking the item relating to Delaware
13 and inserting the following:

“Delaware 6”;

14 (5) by striking the items relating to Florida and
15 inserting the following:

“Florida:
Northern 5
Middle 20
Southern 20”;

16 (6) by striking the items relating to Georgia
17 and inserting the following:

“Georgia:
 Northern 13
 Middle 4
 Southern 3”;

1 (7) by striking the item relating to Idaho and
 2 inserting the following:

“Idaho 3”;

3 (8) by striking the items relating to Indiana
 4 and inserting the following:

“Indiana:
 Northern 5
 Southern 6”;

5 (9) by striking the items relating to Iowa and
 6 inserting the following:

“Iowa:
 Northern 3
 Southern 3”;

7 (10) by striking the item relating to Nebraska
 8 and inserting the following:

“Nebraska 4”;

9 (11) by striking the item relating to New Jer-
 10 sey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey 20”;

11 (12) by striking the items relating to New York
 12 and inserting the following:

“New York:
 Northern 5
 Southern 30
 Eastern 17
 Western 5”;

1 (13) by striking the items relating to Texas and
2 inserting the following:

“Texas:	
Northern	13
Southern	23
Eastern	9
Western	19”.

3 **SEC. 4. GAO REPORT ON VACANT AND UNDERUTILIZED**
4 **COURTHOUSES.**

5 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
6 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
7 shall make publicly available a report identifying Federal
8 courthouses that are vacant or underused.

9 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
11 as may be necessary to carry out this Act and the amend-
12 ments made by this Act, including such sums as may be
13 necessary to provide appropriate space and facilities for
14 the judicial positions created by this Act or an amendment
15 made by this Act.

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