

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2535

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 29, 2021

Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. COONS) 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” or the
6 “JUDGES Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Judicial Conference of the United
2 States requested the creation of 77 new district
3 judges in its 2021 report.

4 (2) The Judicial Conference of the United
5 States has named 37 vacancies as judicial emer-
6 gencies.

7 (3) As of March 31, 2021, there were 696,789
8 pending cases, averaging 803 filings per judgeship.

9 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGES FOR THE DISTRICT**
10 **COURTS.**

11 (a) **ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIPS.—**

12 (1) 2025.—On or after January 21, 2025, the
13 President shall appoint, by and with the advice and
14 consent of the Senate—

15 (A) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
16 trict of Arizona;

17 (B) 7 additional district judges for the cen-
18 tral district of California;

19 (C) 2 additional district judges for the
20 eastern district of California;

21 (D) 3 additional district judges for the
22 northern district of California;

23 (E) 3 additional district judges for the
24 southern district of California;

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

3 (G) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
4 trict of Delaware;

5 (H) 3 additional district judges for the
6 middle district of Florida;

7 (I) 1 additional district judge for the
8 northern district of Florida;

9 (J) 1 additional district judge for the
10 southern district of Florida;

11 (K) 1 additional district judge for the
12 northern district of Georgia;

13 (L) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
14 trict of Idaho;

15 (M) 1 additional district judge for the
16 southern district of Indiana;

17 (N) 1 additional district judge for the
18 northern district of Iowa;

19 (O) 2 additional district judges for the dis-
20 trict of New Jersey;

21 (P) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
22 trict of New Mexico;

23 (Q) 1 additional district judge for the east-
24 ern district of New York;

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

3 (S) 1 additional district judge for the west-
4 ern district of New York;

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

7 (U) 2 additional district judges for the
8 southern district of Texas; and

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

11 (2) 2029.—On or after January 21, 2029, the
12 President shall appoint, by and with the advice and
13 consent of the Senate—

14 (A) 3 additional district judges for the dis-
15 trict of Arizona;

16 (B) 8 additional district judges for the cen-
17 tral district of California;

18 (C) 2 additional district judges for the
19 eastern district of California;

20 (D) 2 additional district judges for the
21 northern district of California;

22 (E) 3 additional district judges for the
23 southern district of California;

24 (F) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
25 trict of Colorado;

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

3 (H) 4 additional district judges for the
4 middle district of Florida;

5 (I) 2 additional district judges for the
6 southern district of Florida;

7 (J) 1 additional district judge for the
8 northern district of Georgia;

9 (K) 1 additional district judge for the
10 southern district of Indiana;

11 (L) 3 additional district judges for the dis-
12 trict of New Jersey;

13 (M) 1 additional district judge for the
14 eastern district of New York;

15 (N) 1 additional district judge for the east-
16 ern district of Texas;

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

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

21 (b) CONVERSION OF TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.—The
22 existing judgeships for the district of Kansas, and the
23 eastern district of Missouri authorized by section 203(c)
24 of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (Public Law
25 101–650; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) and the existing judgeships

1 for the northern district of Alabama, the district of Ari-
 2 zona, the central district of California, the southern dis-
 3 trict of Florida, the district of New Mexico, the western
 4 district of North Carolina, and the eastern district of
 5 Texas authorized by section 312(c) of the 21st Century
 6 Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act
 7 (Public Law 107–273, 28 U.S.C. 133 note), as of the date
 8 of enactment of this Act, shall be authorized under section
 9 133 of title 28, United States Code, and the incumbents
 10 in those offices shall hold the office under section 133 of
 11 title 28, United States Code, as amended by this Act.

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

15 (1) by striking the items relating to Alabama
 16 and inserting the following:

“Alabama:	
Northern	8
Middle	3
Southern	3”;

17 (2) by striking the item relating to Arizona and
 18 inserting the following:

“Arizona	17”;
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19 (3) by striking the items relating to California
 20 and inserting the following:

“California:	
Northern	19
Eastern	10
Central	43

Southern 19”;

1 (4) by striking the item relating to Colorado
2 and inserting the following:

“Colorado 9”;

3 (5) by striking the item relating to Delaware
4 and inserting the following:

“Delaware 6”;

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

“Florida:
Northern 5
Middle 22
Southern 21”;

7 (7) by striking the items relating to Georgia
8 and inserting the following:

“Georgia:
Northern 13
Middle 4
Southern 3”;

9 (8) by striking the item relating to Idaho and
10 inserting the following:

“Idaho 3”;

11 (9) by striking the items relating to Indiana
12 and inserting the following:

“Indiana:
Northern 5
Southern 7”;

13 (10) by striking the items relating to Iowa and
14 inserting the following:

“Iowa:
 Northern 3
 Southern 3”;

1 (11) by striking the item relating to Kansas
 2 and inserting the following:

“Kansas 6”;

3 (12) by striking the items relating to Missouri
 4 and inserting the following:

“Missouri:
 Eastern 7
 Western 5
 Eastern and Western 2”;

5 (13) by striking the item relating to New Jer-
 6 sey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey 22”;

7 (14) by striking the item relating to New Mex-
 8 ico and inserting the following:

“New Mexico 8”;

9 (15) by striking the items relating to New York
 10 and inserting the following:

“New York:
 Northern 5
 Southern 29
 Eastern 17
 Western 5”;

11 (16) by striking the items relating to North
 12 Carolina and inserting the following:

“North Carolina:
 Eastern 4
 Middle 4
 Western 5”;

1 and

2 (17) by striking the items relating to Texas and

3 inserting the following:

“Texas:	
Northern	12
Southern	23
Eastern	10
Western	19”.

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

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

10 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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