

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4779

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 1, 2020

Mr. YOUNG 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 65 new district
3 judges in its 2019 report.

4 (2) The Judicial Conference of the United
5 States has named 42 vacancies as judicial emer-
6 gencies.

7 (3) In fiscal year 2019, there were 456,827
8 pending cases, averaging 674 per judgeship, of
9 which 15.8 percent were over 3 years old.

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

12 (a) ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIPS.—

13 (1) 2021.—On or after January 21, 2021, the
14 President shall appoint, by and with the advice and
15 consent of the Senate—

16 (A) 2 additional district judges for the dis-
17 trict of Arizona;

18 (B) 4 additional district judges for the cen-
19 tral district of California;

20 (C) 3 additional district judges for the
21 eastern district of California;

22 (D) 2 additional district judges for the
23 northern district of California;

24 (E) 2 additional district judges for the
25 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) 2 additional district judges for the
8 southern district of Florida;

9 (J) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
10 trict of Idaho;

11 (K) 1 additional district judge for the
12 southern district of Indiana;

13 (L) 1 additional district judge for the
14 northern district of Iowa;

15 (M) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
16 trict of Nevada;

17 (N) 2 additional district judges for the dis-
18 trict of New Jersey;

19 (O) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
20 trict of New Mexico;

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

23 (Q) 1 additional district judge for the
24 southern district of New York;

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

3 (S) 1 additional district judge for the
4 southern district of Texas; and

5 (T) 3 additional district judges for the
6 western district of Texas.

7 (2) 2025.—On or after January 21, 2025, the
8 President shall appoint, by and with the advice and
9 consent of the Senate—

10 (A) 2 additional district judges for the dis-
11 trict of Arizona;

12 (B) 5 additional district judges for the cen-
13 tral district of California;

14 (C) 2 additional district judges for the
15 eastern district of California;

16 (D) 2 additional district judges for the
17 northern district of California;

18 (E) 2 additional district judges for the
19 southern district of California;

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

22 (G) 3 additional district judges for the
23 middle district of Florida;

24 (H) 1 additional district judge for the
25 northern district of Florida;

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

3 (J) 1 additional district judge for the
4 northern district of Georgia;

5 (K) 1 additional district judge for the
6 southern district of Indiana;

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

9 (M) 1 additional district judge for the
10 eastern district of New York;

11 (N) 1 additional district judge for the
12 western district of New York;

13 (O) 1 additional district judge for the dis-
14 trict of Puerto Rico;

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

17 (Q) 1 additional district judge for the
18 southern district of Texas; and

19 (R) 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 Hawaii, the district
23 of Kansas, and the eastern district of Missouri authorized
24 by section 203(c) of the Judicial Improvements Act of
25 1990 (Public Law 101–650; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) and the

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

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

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

“Alabama:
 Northern 8
 Middle 3
 Southern 3”;

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

“Arizona 17”;

20 (3) by striking the items relating to California
 21 and inserting the following:

“California:

Northern	18
Eastern	11
Central	37
Southern	17”;

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 5”;

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

“Florida:	
Northern	5
Middle	21
Southern	21”;

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

“Georgia:	
Northern	12
Middle	4
Southern	3”;

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

“Hawaii 4”;

11 (9) by striking the item relating to Idaho and
12 inserting the following:

“Idaho 3”;

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

“Indiana:

Northern	5
Southern	7”;

- 1 (11) by striking the items relating to Iowa and
2 inserting the following:

“Iowa:

Northern	3
Southern	3”;

- 3 (12) by striking the item relating to Kansas
4 and inserting the following:

“Kansas 6”;

- 5 (13) by striking the items relating to Missouri
6 and inserting the following:

“Missouri:

Eastern	7
Western	5
Eastern and Western	2”;

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

“Nevada 8”;

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

“New Jersey 21”;

- 11 (16) by striking the item relating to New Mex-
12 ico and inserting the following:

“New Mexico 8”;

- 13 (17) by striking the items relating to New York
14 and inserting the following:

“New York:

Northern	5
Southern	29
Eastern	17
Western	5”;

1 (18) by striking the items relating to North
2 Carolina and inserting the following:

“North Carolina:

Eastern	4
Middle	4
Western	5”;

3 (19) by striking the item relating to Puerto
4 Rico and inserting the following:

“Puerto Rico 8”;

5 and

6 (20) by striking the items relating to Texas and
7 inserting the following:

“Texas:

Northern	12
Southern	21
Eastern	10
Western	19”.

8 **SEC. 4. GAO REPORT ON VACANT AND UNDERUTILIZED**
9 **COURTHOUSES.**

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

14 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
16 as may be necessary to carry out this Act and the amend-

1 ments made by this Act, including such sums as may be
2 necessary to provide appropriate space and facilities for
3 the judicial positions created by this Act or an amendment
4 made by this Act.

