



**Am. Sub. S.B. 164**  
123rd General Assembly  
(As Passed by the General Assembly)

**Sens. Oelslager, Herington, Gardner, Ray**

**Reps. Womer Benjamin, Schuring, Callender, Maier, Trakas, Gerberry,  
Peterson, Ford, Jones, Krupinski, Verich, Smith, Distel, Barnes**

**Effective date: Emergency, December 22, 1999**

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**ACT SUMMARY**

- Adds for a single term one new judge to the Fifth District Court of Appeals to be elected in the year 2000.
- Adds one new judge to the Eleventh District Court of Appeals to be elected in the year 2000 and every six years thereafter.
- Specifies that the term of the judge of the Lake County Court of Common Pleas who is first elected in 2000 begins on January 6, 2001.
- Creates the Appellate District Study Committee to review the existing district boundaries of the courts of appeals and recommend to the General Assembly any necessary revisions to those boundaries.

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**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

**Fifth District Court of Appeals**

Under prior law, the Fifth District Court of Appeals had five full-time judges.<sup>1</sup> The act adds for a single term one additional judge to that court to be elected at the general election in 2000 for a term of six years beginning February 11, 2001. The additional judge will serve from February 11, 2001, to February 10, 2007, and there will not be a successor to that judge. (R.C. 2501.011(A).)

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<sup>1</sup> *The Fifth District is composed of Ashland, Coshocton, Delaware, Fairfield, Guernsey, Holmes, Knox, Licking, Morgan, Morrow, Muskingum, Perry, Richland, Stark, and Tuscarawas counties.*

### **Eleventh District Court of Appeals**

Under prior law, the Eleventh District Court of Appeals had four full-time judges.<sup>2</sup> The act adds one additional judge to that court to be elected at the general election in 2000 for a term of six years beginning February 10, 2001. Successors to that judge will be elected every six years thereafter. (R.C. 2501.012(D).)

### **Lake County Court of Common Pleas**

Under prior law, the judge of the Lake County Court of Common Pleas who is to be elected in 2000 was to begin that judge's term on January 1, 2001. The act changes the starting date of that judicial term to January 6, 2001. (R.C. 2301.02(B).)

### **Appellate District Study Committee**

The act creates the Appellate District Study Committee. The study committee will review the existing boundaries of the 12 appellate districts and recommend to the General Assembly any necessary revisions to those boundaries. In conducting its review and making its recommendations, the study committee must consider changes over the past 50 years in caseloads, populations, other demographic factors that affect appellate district workloads, and the membership, by county, of multi-county appellate districts. Not later than December 31, 2001, the study committee must submit recommendations on whether and how to revise appellate district boundaries to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the President and Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The study committee will cease to exist on January 1, 2002.

The study committee will consist of the following members: (1) one judge of a court of record from each appellate district, to be appointed by the Chief Justice, (2) five members to be appointed by the Chief Justice, (3) the Chair of the House Criminal Justice Committee, or the Chair's designee, (4) the Ranking Minority Member of the House Criminal Justice Committee, or that member's designee, (5) the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, or the Chair's designee, and (6) the Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, or that member's designee.

The Chief Justice must appoint the chair and vice-chair of the study committee from among the study committee's members. The Chief Justice must

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<sup>2</sup> *The Eleventh District is composed of Lake, Ashtabula, Geauga, Trumbull, and Portage counties.*

make the initial appointments to the study committee within 60 days after the act's effective date. A vacancy on the study committee must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The Supreme Court must provide facilities in which the study committee will meet, provide any clerical or other services required by the study committee in performing its official duties, and be responsible for any administrative expenses incurred by the study committee in performing its official duties. The members of the study committee must serve without compensation. The chair of the study committee must schedule a date for the study committee's first meeting not later than 30 days after the final initial appointment to the study committee is made. (Section 3.)

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	06-29-99	p. 828
Reported, S. Judiciary	10-12-99	p. 1046
Passed Senate (31-2)	10-12-99	pp. 1047-1048
Reported, H. Criminal Justice	11-10-99	p. 1357
Passed House (83-3)	12-08-99	pp. 1423-1426
Senate concurred in House amendments (30-2)	12-09-99	pp. 1240-1241

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