

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 113 Judges

**SPONSOR(S):** Negron and others

**TIED BILLS:** IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 364, SB 766

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REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Judiciary Appropriations Committee		Brazzell	DeBeaugrine
2) Judiciary Committee			
3) Fiscal Council			
4) _____			
5) _____			

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**SUMMARY ANALYSIS**

The Supreme Court issued Order No. SC05-2120, dated December 15, 2005, certifying the need for a total of 66 additional appellate, circuit, and county judges.

HB 113 establishes 32 new circuit judges and 22 new county court judges for a total of 54 new judges.

Estimated annual recurring costs will be \$13 million. The new judges will be established beginning December 1, 2006. The estimated cost for Fiscal Year 2006-07 is \$7.29 million.

The bill sponsor is expected to offer a strike-all amendment at the Judiciary Appropriations Committee meeting to conform the bill to the Supreme Court's certification.

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

This bill does not appear to implicate any of the House Principles.

#### B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The Supreme Court of Florida issued SC05-2120 on December 15, 2005, in regard to the Certification of Need for Additional Judges. In the certification, the court recommended 40 new circuit judges, 24 new county judges and 2 new appellate judges for a total of 66 new judges.

HB 113 establishes 32 new circuit judges and 24 new county court judges effective December 1, 2006.

#### C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 26.031, F.S., establishing new circuit judges.

Section 2. Amends s. 34.022, F.S., establishing new county court judges.

Section 3. Provides an effective date of December 1, 2006.

### II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

#### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

##### 1. Revenues:

None.

##### 2. Expenditures:

The bill requires a recurring appropriation to the state courts of \$6.99 million and a nonrecurring appropriation of \$293,160 from the General Revenue Fund to cover the cost of 149 new positions, including judges, judicial assistants, and law clerks; associated expenses; OCO; and special category expenses for a portion of Fiscal Year 2006-2007. Subsequent annual recurring appropriations will total approximately \$13 million. The bill also requires salary rate of 9,625,548.

#### B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

##### 1. Revenues:

None.

##### 2. Expenditures:

The cost of county judges and judicial assistants are paid for by the state. Under section 29.008, Florida Statutes, counties are responsible for facilities, security, communications and information technology costs for county and circuit courts. This bill could result in additional costs in these areas.

#### C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

**III. COMMENTS**

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

**IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES**

Not applicable.