

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1702

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Mr. ISSA (for himself, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. KILEY of California) introduced the following bill; which was 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 2025” or the
6 “JUDGES Act of 2025”.

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.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall ap-
3 point, by and with the advice and consent of the
4 Senate—

5 (i) 1 additional district judge for the
6 central district of California;

7 (ii) 1 additional district judge for the
8 eastern district of California;

9 (iii) 1 additional district judge for the
10 northern district of California;

11 (iv) 1 additional district judge for the
12 district of Delaware;

13 (v) 1 additional district judge for the
14 middle district of Florida;

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

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

19 (viii) 1 additional district judge for
20 the district of New Jersey;

21 (ix) 1 additional district judge for the
22 southern district of New York;

23 (x) 1 additional district judge for the
24 eastern district of Texas; and

1 (xi) 1 additional district judge for the
2 southern district of Texas.

3 (B) TABLES.—The table contained in sec-
4 tion 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (i) by striking the items relating to
7 California and inserting the following:

“California:	
Northern	15
Eastern	7
Central	28
Southern	13”;

8 (ii) by striking the item relating to
9 Delaware and inserting the following:

“Delaware	5”;
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10 (iii) by striking the items relating to
11 Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:	
Northern	4
Middle	16
Southern	17”;

12 (iv) by striking the items relating to
13 Indiana and inserting the following:

“Indiana:	
Northern	5
Southern	6”;

14 (v) by striking the items relating to
15 Iowa and inserting the following:

“Iowa:	
Northern	3
Southern	3”;

1 (vi) by striking the item relating to
2 New Jersey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey 18”;

3 (vii) by striking the items relating to
4 New York and inserting the following:

“New York:

Northern 5
Southern 29
Eastern 15
Western 4”; and

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

“Texas:

Northern 12
Southern 20
Eastern 8
Western 13”.

7 (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph
8 shall take effect on the date of the enactment
9 of this Act.

10 (2) 2027.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall ap-
12 point, by and with the advice and consent of the
13 Senate—

14 (i) 1 additional district judge for the
15 district of Arizona;

16 (ii) 2 additional district judges for the
17 central district of California;

1 (iii) 1 additional district judge for the
2 eastern district of California;

3 (iv) 1 additional district judge for the
4 northern district of California;

5 (v) 1 additional district judge for the
6 middle district of Florida;

7 (vi) 1 additional district judge for the
8 southern district of Florida;

9 (vii) 1 additional district judge for the
10 northern district of Georgia;

11 (viii) 1 additional district judge for
12 the district of Idaho;

13 (ix) 1 additional district judge for the
14 northern district of Texas; and

15 (x) 1 additional district judge for the
16 southern district of Texas.

17 (B) TABLES.—The table contained in sec-
18 tion 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as
19 amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection, is
20 amended—

21 (i) by striking the item relating to Ar-
22 izona and inserting the following:

“Arizona 13”;

23 (ii) by striking the items relating to
24 California and inserting the following:

“California:
 Northern 16
 Eastern 8
 Central 30
 Southern 13”;

1 (iii) by striking the items relating to
 2 Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:
 Northern 4
 Middle 17
 Southern 18”;

3 (iv) by striking the items relating to
 4 Georgia and inserting the following:

“Georgia:
 Northern 12
 Middle 4
 Southern 3”;

5 (v) by striking the item relating to
 6 Idaho and inserting the following:

“Idaho 3”; and

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

“Texas:
 Northern 13
 Southern 21
 Eastern 8
 Western 13”.

9 (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph
 10 shall take effect on January 21, 2027.

11 (3) 2029.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall ap-
2 point, by and with the advice and consent of the
3 Senate—

4 (i) 1 additional district judge for the
5 central district of California;

6 (ii) 1 additional district judge for the
7 eastern district of California;

8 (iii) 1 additional district judge for the
9 northern district of California;

10 (iv) 1 additional district judge for the
11 district of Colorado;

12 (v) 1 additional district judge for the
13 district of Delaware;

14 (vi) 1 additional district judge for the
15 district of Nebraska;

16 (vii) 1 additional district judge for the
17 eastern district of New York;

18 (viii) 1 additional district judge for
19 the northern district of Oklahoma;

20 (ix) 1 additional district judge for the
21 eastern district of Texas;

22 (x) 1 additional district judge for the
23 southern district of Texas; and

24 (xi) 1 additional district judge for the
25 western district of Texas.

1 (B) TABLES.—The table contained in sec-
2 tion 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as
3 amended by paragraph (2) of this subsection, is
4 amended—

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

“California:	
Northern	17
Eastern	9
Central	31
Southern	13”;

7 (ii) by striking the item relating to
8 Colorado and inserting the following:

“Colorado	8”;
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9 (iii) by striking the item relating to
10 Delaware and inserting the following:

“Delaware	6”;
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11 (iv) by striking the item relating to
12 Nebraska and inserting the following:

“Nebraska	4”;
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13 (v) by striking the items relating to
14 New York and inserting the following:

“New York:	
Northern	5
Southern	29
Eastern	16
Western	4”;

15 (vi) by striking the items relating to
16 Oklahoma and inserting the following:

“Oklahoma:
 Northern 4
 Eastern 1
 Western 6
 Northern, Eastern, and Western 1”; and

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

“Texas:
 Northern 13
 Southern 22
 Eastern 9
 Western 14”.

3 (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph
 4 shall take effect on January 21, 2029.

5 (4) 2031.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall ap-
 7 point, by and with the advice and consent of the
 8 Senate—

9 (i) 1 additional district judge for the
 10 district of Arizona;

11 (ii) 1 additional district judge for the
 12 central district of California;

13 (iii) 1 additional district judge for the
 14 eastern district of California;

15 (iv) 1 additional district judge for the
 16 northern district of California;

17 (v) 1 additional district judge for the
 18 southern district of California;

19 (vi) 1 additional district judge for the
 20 middle district of Florida;

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

3 (viii) 1 additional district judge for
4 the district of New Jersey;

5 (ix) 1 additional district judge for the
6 western district of New York; and

7 (x) 2 additional district judges for the
8 western district of Texas.

9 (B) TABLES.—The table contained in sec-
10 tion 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as
11 amended by paragraph (3) of this subsection, is
12 amended—

13 (i) by striking the item relating to Ar-
14 izona and inserting the following:

“Arizona 14”;

15 (ii) by striking the items relating to
16 California and inserting the following:

“California:
Northern 18
Eastern 10
Central 32
Southern 14”;

17 (iii) by striking the items relating to
18 Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:
Northern 4
Middle 18
Southern 19”;

1 (iv) by striking the item relating to
 2 New Jersey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey 19”;

3 (v) by striking the items relating to
 4 New York and inserting the following:

“New York:

Northern 5
 Southern 29
 Eastern 16
 Western 5”; and

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

“Texas:

Northern 13
 Southern 22
 Eastern 9
 Western 16”.

7 (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph
 8 shall take effect on January 21, 2031.

9 (5) 2033.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall ap-
 11 point, by and with the advice and consent of the
 12 Senate—

13 (i) 2 additional district judges for the
 14 central district of California;

15 (ii) 1 additional district judge for the
 16 northern district of California;

17 (iii) 1 additional district judge for the
 18 district of Colorado;

1 (iv) 1 additional district judge for the
2 middle district of Florida;

3 (v) 1 additional district judge for the
4 northern district of Florida;

5 (vi) 1 additional district judge for the
6 northern district of Georgia;

7 (vii) 1 additional district judge for the
8 southern district of New York;

9 (viii) 1 additional district judge for
10 the eastern district of Oklahoma;

11 (ix) 1 additional district judge for the
12 southern district of Texas; and

13 (x) 1 additional district judge for the
14 western district of Texas.

15 (B) TABLES.—The table contained in sec-
16 tion 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as
17 amended by paragraph (4) of this subsection, is
18 amended—

19 (i) by striking the items relating to
20 California and inserting the following:

“California:	
Northern	19
Eastern	10
Central	34
Southern	14”;

21 (ii) by striking the item relating to
22 Colorado and inserting the following:

“Colorado	9”;
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1 (iii) by striking the items relating to
2 Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:	
Northern	5
Middle	19
Southern	19”;

3 (iv) by striking the items relating to
4 Georgia and inserting the following:

“Georgia:	
Northern	13
Middle	4
Southern	3”;

5 (v) by striking the items relating to
6 New York and inserting the following:

“New York:	
Northern	5
Southern	30
Eastern	16
Western	5”;

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

“Oklahoma:	
Northern	4
Eastern	2
Western	6
Northern, Eastern, and Western	1”;
and	

9 (vii) by striking the items relating to
10 Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas:	
Northern	13
Southern	23
Eastern	9
Western	17”.

11 (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph
12 shall take effect on January 21, 2033.

1 (6) 2035.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall ap-
3 point, by and with the advice and consent of the
4 Senate—

5 (i) 2 additional district judges for the
6 central district of California;

7 (ii) 1 additional district judge for the
8 northern district of California;

9 (iii) 1 additional district judge for the
10 southern district of California;

11 (iv) 1 additional district judge for the
12 middle district of Florida;

13 (v) 1 additional district judge for the
14 southern district of Florida;

15 (vi) 1 additional district judge for the
16 district of New Jersey;

17 (vii) 1 additional district judge for the
18 eastern district of New York; and

19 (viii) 2 additional district judges for
20 the western district of Texas.

21 (B) TABLES.—The table contained in sec-
22 tion 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as
23 amended by paragraph (5) of this subsection, is
24 amended—

1 (i) by striking the items relating to
2 California and inserting the following:

“California:

Northern	20
Eastern	10
Central	36
Southern	15”;

3 (ii) by striking the items relating to
4 Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:

Northern	5
Middle	20
Southern	20”;

5 (iii) by striking the item relating to
6 New Jersey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey 20”; |

7 (iv) by striking the items relating to
8 New York and inserting the following:

“New York:

Northern	5
Southern	30
Eastern	17
Western	5”;

and

9 (v) by striking the items relating to
10 Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas:

Northern	13
Southern	23
Eastern	9
Western	19”.

11 (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph
12 shall take effect on January 21, 2035.

13 (b) TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint,
2 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,
3 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of
4 Oklahoma.

5 (2) VACANCIES NOT FILLED.—The first va-
6 cancy in the office of district judge in each of the
7 offices of district judge authorized by this sub-
8 section, occurring 5 years or more after the con-
9 firmation date of the judge named to fill the tem-
10 porary district judgeship created in the applicable
11 district by this subsection, shall not be filled.

12 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall
13 take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

14 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
16 appropriated to carry out this section and the
17 amendments made by this section—

18 (A) for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026,
19 \$12,965,330;

20 (B) for each of fiscal years 2027 and
21 2028, \$23,152,375;

22 (C) for each of fiscal years 2029 and 2030,
23 \$32,413,325;

24 (D) for each of fiscal years 2031 and
25 2032, \$42,600,370;

1 (E) for each of fiscal years 2033 and
2 2034, \$51,861,320; and

3 (F) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal
4 year thereafter, \$61,122,270.

5 (2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—For each fiscal
6 year described in paragraph (1), the amount author-
7 ized to be appropriated for such fiscal year shall be
8 increased by the percentage by which—

9 (A) the Consumer Price Index for the pre-
10 vious fiscal year, exceeds

11 (B) the Consumer Price Index for the fis-
12 cal year preceding the fiscal year described in
13 subparagraph (A).

14 (3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
15 “Consumer Price Index” means the Consumer Price
16 Index for All Urban Consumers (all items, United
17 States city average), published by the Bureau of
18 Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

19 **SEC. 4. ORGANIZATION OF TEXAS DISTRICT COURTS.**

20 Section 124(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is
21 amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (3), by in-
22 serting “and College Station” before the period at the end.

1 **SEC. 5. ORGANIZATION OF CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COURTS.**

2 Section 84(d) of title 28, United States Code, is
3 amended by inserting “and El Centro” after “at San
4 Diego”.

5 **SEC. 6. GAO REPORTS.**

6 (a) JUDICIAL CASELOADS.—Not later than 2 years
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
8 General of the United States shall submit to the Com-
9 mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee
10 on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and
11 make publicly available reports—

12 (1) evaluating—

13 (A) the accuracy and objectiveness of case-
14 related workload measures and methodologies
15 used by the Administrative Office of the United
16 States Courts for district courts of the United
17 States and courts of appeals of the United
18 States;

19 (B) the impact of non-case-related activi-
20 ties of judges of the district courts of the
21 United States and courts of appeals of the
22 United States on judicial caseloads; and

23 (C) the effectiveness and efficiency of the
24 policies of the Administrative Office of the
25 United States Courts regarding senior judges;
26 and

1 (2) providing any recommendations of the
2 Comptroller General with respect to the matters de-
3 scribed in paragraph (1).

4 (b) DETENTION SPACE.—The Comptroller General of
5 the United States shall submit to the Committee on the
6 Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judici-
7 ary of the House of Representatives a report on an assess-
8 ment of—

9 (1) a determination of the needs of Federal
10 agencies for detention space;

11 (2) efforts by Federal agencies to acquire de-
12 tention space; and

13 (3) any challenges in determining and acquiring
14 detention space.

15 **SEC. 7. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY OF THE ARTICLE III JUDGE-**
16 **SHIP RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUDICIAL**
17 **CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES RE-**
18 **PORT.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrative Office of the
20 United States Courts, in consultation with the Judicial
21 Conference of the United States, shall make publicly avail-
22 able on their website, free of charge, the biennial report
23 entitled “Article III Judgeship Recommendations of the
24 Judicial Conference of the United States”.

1 (b) CONTENTS.—The report described in subsection
2 (a) should be released not less frequently than biennially
3 and contain the summaries and all related appendixes sup-
4 porting the judgeship recommendations of the Judicial
5 Conference of the United States, including—

6 (1) the process used by the Judicial Conference
7 in developing the recommendations;

8 (2) any caseload and methodology changes;

9 (3) judgeship surveys with recommendations;

10 and

11 (4) specific information about each court for
12 which the Judicial Conference recommends addi-
13 tional judgeships.

14 (c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Administrative
15 Office of the United States Courts shall submit to the
16 Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Com-
17 mittee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives
18 copies of the report described in subsection (a).

○