**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**A7, R18, H3529**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. W. Newton, Bannister, Caskey, Wooten, Spann-Wilder, Calhoon, Ballentine, Robbins, Mitchell and Weeks

Companion/Similar bill(s): 3521

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Introduced in the House on January 14, 2025

Introduced in the Senate on February 13, 2025

Currently residing in the Senate

Governor's Action: April 28, 2025, Signed

Summary: Family Court Judges, additional

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 12/5/2024 House Prefiled

 12/5/2024 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

 1/14/2025 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal‑page 235)

 1/14/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** (House Journal‑page 235)

 2/5/2025 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Calhoon,
 Ballentine

 2/6/2025 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Robbins,
 Mitchell

 2/6/2025 House Committee report: Favorable **Judiciary** (House Journal‑page 4)

 2/12/2025 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Weeks

 2/12/2025 House Read second time (House Journal‑page 32)

 2/12/2025 House Roll call Yeas-106 Nays-0 (House Journal‑page 32)

 2/13/2025 House Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal‑page 12)

 2/13/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 12)

 2/13/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** (Senate Journal‑page 12)

 2/27/2025 Senate Referred to Subcommittee: Elliott (ch), Cash,
 Tedder, Devine, Fernandez, Kennedy, Walker

 3/12/2025 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Judiciary** (Senate Journal‑page 9)

 3/13/2025 Scrivener's error corrected

 3/18/2025 Senate Read second time (Senate Journal‑page 17)

 3/18/2025 Senate Roll call Ayes-44 Nays-0 (Senate Journal‑page 17)

 3/19/2025 Senate Read third time and enrolled (Senate Journal‑page 8)

 4/24/2025 Ratified R 18

 4/28/2025 Signed By Governor

 5/7/2025 Effective date 04/28/25

 5/7/2025 Act No. 7

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=3529&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/05/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3529_20241205.docx)

[02/06/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3529_20250206.docx)

[03/12/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3529_20250312.docx)

[03/13/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3529_20250313.docx)

(A7, R18, H3529)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 63‑3‑40, RELATING TO FAMILY COURT JUDGES ELECTED FROM EACH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, SO AS TO INCREASE BY ONE THE NUMBER OF FAMILY COURT JUDGES IN THE NINTH, ELEVENTH, AND FOURTEENTH CIRCUITS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

Additional Family Court judges

SECTION 1. Section 63‑3‑40(A) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 (A) The General Assembly shall elect a number of family court judges from each judicial circuit as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | First Circuit | Four Judges |
|  | Second Circuit | Two Judges |
|  | Third Circuit | Three Judges |
|  | Fourth Circuit | Three Judges |
|  | Fifth Circuit | Four Judges |
|  | Sixth Circuit | Two Judges |
|  | Seventh Circuit | Four Judges |
|  | Eighth Circuit | Three Judges |
|  | Ninth Circuit | Seven Judges |
|  | Tenth Circuit | Three Judges |
|  | Eleventh Circuit | Four Judges |
|  | Twelfth Circuit | Three Judges |
|  | Thirteenth Circuit | Six Judges |
|  | Fourteenth Circuit | Four Judges |
|  | Fifteenth Circuit | Three Judges |
|  | Sixteenth Circuit | Three Judges |

Judicial Screening, funding contingency

SECTION 2. The Judicial Merit Selection Commission shall begin the process of nominating candidates for the judicial offices authorized by the provisions of SECTION 1. The General Assembly then shall elect these judges from the nominees of the commission; except that, the nominating process may not begin until funding for the additional judges is provided in the general appropriations act.

Time effective

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 24th day of April, 2025.

Approved the 28th day of April, 2025.

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