

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**  
**TO H.R. \_\_\_\_\_**  
**OFFERED BY MR. ISSA OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Judicial Understaffing  
3 Delays Getting Emergencies Solved Act” or the  
4 “JUDGES Act”.

**5 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6       Congress finds the following:

7           (1) Article III of the Constitution of the United  
8 States gives Congress the power to establish judge-  
9 ships in the district courts of the United States.

10          (2) Congress has not created a new district  
11 court judgeship since 2003 and has not enacted  
12 comprehensive judgeship legislation since 1990.

13          (3) This represents the longest period of time  
14 since district courts of the United States were estab-  
15 lished in 1789 that Congress has not authorized any  
16 new permanent district court judgeships.

17          (4) By the end of fiscal year 2022, filings in the  
18 district courts of the United States had increased by

1 30 percent since the last comprehensive judgeship  
2 legislation.

3 (5) As of March 31, 2023, there were 686,797  
4 pending cases in the district courts of the United  
5 States, with an average of 491 weighted case filings  
6 per judgeship over a 12-month period.

7 (6) To deal with increased filings in the district  
8 courts of the United States, the Judicial Conference  
9 of the United States requested the creation of 66  
10 new district court judgeships in its 2023 report.

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

13 (a) ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIPS.—

14 (1) 2025.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall ap-  
16 point, by and with the advice and consent of the  
17 Senate—

18 (i) 1 additional district judge for the  
19 central district of California;

20 (ii) 1 additional district judge for the  
21 eastern district of California;

22 (iii) 1 additional district judge for the  
23 northern district of California;

24 (iv) 1 additional district judge for the  
25 district of Delaware;

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

3 (vi) 1 additional district judge for the  
4 southern district of Indiana;

5 (vii) 1 additional district judge for the  
6 northern district of Iowa;

7 (viii) 1 additional district judge for  
8 the district of New Jersey;

9 (ix) 1 additional district judge for the  
10 southern district of New York;

11 (x) 1 additional district judge for the  
12 eastern district of Texas; and

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

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

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

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

20 (ii) by striking the item relating to  
21 Delaware and inserting the following:

“Delaware ..... 5”;

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

“Florida:  
Northern ..... 4  
Middle ..... 16  
Southern ..... 17”;

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

“Indiana:  
Northern ..... 5  
Southern ..... 6”;

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

“Iowa:  
Northern ..... 3  
Southern ..... 3”;

7 (vi) by striking the item relating to  
8 New Jersey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey ..... 18”;

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

“New York:  
Northern ..... 5  
Southern ..... 29  
Eastern ..... 15  
Western ..... 4”; and

11 (viii) by striking the items relating to  
12 Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas:  
Northern ..... 12  
Southern ..... 20  
Eastern ..... 8  
Western ..... 13”.

1 (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph  
2 shall take effect on the date of the enactment  
3 of this Act.

4 (2) 2027.—

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

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

10 (ii) 2 additional district judges for the  
11 central district of California;

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

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

16 (v) 1 additional district judge for the  
17 middle district of Florida;

18 (vi) 1 additional district judge for the  
19 southern district of Florida;

20 (vii) 1 additional district judge for the  
21 northern district of Georgia;

22 (viii) 1 additional district judge for  
23 the district of Idaho;

24 (ix) 1 additional district judge for the  
25 northern district of Texas; and

1 (x) 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, as  
5 amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection, is  
6 amended—

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

“Arizona ..... 13”;

9 (ii) by striking the items relating to  
10 California and inserting the following:

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

11 (iii) by striking the items relating to  
12 Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:  
Northern ..... 4  
Middle ..... 17  
Southern ..... 18”;

13 (iv) by striking the items relating to  
14 Georgia and inserting the following:

“Georgia:  
Northern ..... 12  
Middle ..... 4  
Southern ..... 3”;

15 (v) by striking the item relating to  
16 Idaho and inserting the following:

“Idaho ..... 3”; and

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

“Texas:

Northern .....	13
Southern .....	21
Eastern .....	8
Western .....	13”.

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

5 (3) 2029.—

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 central district of California;

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

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

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

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

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

21 (vii) 1 additional district judge for the  
22 eastern district of New York;

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

3 (ix) 1 additional district judge for the  
4 eastern district of Texas;

5 (x) 1 additional district judge for the  
6 southern district of Texas; and

7 (xi) 1 additional district judge 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 (2) of this subsection, is  
12 amended—

13 (i) by striking the items relating to  
14 California and inserting the following:

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

15 (ii) by striking the item relating to  
16 Colorado and inserting the following:

“Colorado .....	8”;
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17 (iii) by striking the item relating to  
18 Delaware and inserting the following:

“Delaware .....	6”;
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19 (iv) by striking the item relating to  
20 Nebraska and inserting the following:



“Nebraska ..... 4”;

1 (v) by striking the items relating to  
2 New York and inserting the following:

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

3 (vi) by striking the items relating to  
4 Oklahoma and inserting the following:

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

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

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

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

9 (4) 2031.—

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

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

- 1 (ii) 1 additional district judge for the
- 2 central district of California;
- 3 (iii) 1 additional district judge for the
- 4 eastern district of California;
- 5 (iv) 1 additional district judge for the
- 6 northern district of California;
- 7 (v) 1 additional district judge for the
- 8 southern district of California;
- 9 (vi) 1 additional district judge for the
- 10 middle district of Florida;
- 11 (vii) 1 additional district judge for the
- 12 southern district of Florida;
- 13 (viii) 1 additional district judge for
- 14 the district of New Jersey;
- 15 (ix) 1 additional district judge for the
- 16 western district of New York; and
- 17 (x) 2 additional district judges for the
- 18 western district of Texas.

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

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

“Arizona ..... 14”;

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

“California:

Northern .....	18
Eastern .....	10
Central .....	32
Southern .....	14”;

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

“Florida:

Northern .....	4
Middle .....	18
Southern .....	19”;

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

“New Jersey ..... 19”; |

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

“New York:

Northern .....	5
Southern .....	29
Eastern .....	16
Western .....	5”;

and

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

“Texas:

Northern .....	13
Southern .....	22
Eastern .....	9
Western .....	16”.

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

13 (5) 2033.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (x) 1 additional district judge for the  
23 western district of Texas.

24 (B) TABLES.—The table contained in sec-  
25 tion 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as

1 amended by paragraph (4) of this subsection, is  
2 amended—

3 (i) by striking the items relating to  
4 California and inserting the following:

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

5 (ii) by striking the item relating to  
6 Colorado and inserting the following:

“Colorado .....	9”;
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7 (iii) by striking the items relating to  
8 Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:	
Northern .....	5
Middle .....	19
Southern .....	19”;

9 (iv) by striking the items relating to  
10 Georgia and inserting the following:

“Georgia:	
Northern .....	13
Middle .....	4
Southern .....	3”;

11 (v) by striking the items relating to  
12 New York and inserting the following:

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

13 (vi) by striking the items relating to  
14 Oklahoma and inserting the following:

“Oklahoma:  
Northern ..... 4  
Eastern ..... 2  
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 ..... 23  
Eastern ..... 9  
Western ..... 17”.

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

5 (6) 2035.—

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

9 (i) 2 additional district judges for the  
10 central district of California;

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 (viii) 2 additional district judges for  
4 the western district of Texas.

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

9 (i) by striking the items relating to  
10 California and inserting the following:

“California:	
Northern .....	20
Eastern .....	10
Central .....	36
Southern .....	15”;

11 (ii) by striking the items relating to  
12 Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:	
Northern .....	5
Middle .....	20
Southern .....	20”;

13 (iii) by striking the item relating to  
14 New Jersey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey .....	20”;
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15 (iv) by striking the items relating to  
16 New York and inserting the following:

“New York:	
Northern .....	5
Southern .....	30
Eastern .....	17
Western .....	5”;

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

“Texas:

Northern .....	13
Southern .....	23
Eastern .....	9
Western .....	19”.

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

5 (b) TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint,  
7 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,  
8 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of  
9 Oklahoma.

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

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

19 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
21 appropriated to carry out this section and the  
22 amendments made by this section—



1 (A) for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026,  
2 \$12,965,330;

3 (B) for each of fiscal years 2027 and  
4 2028, \$23,152,375;

5 (C) for each of fiscal years 2029 and 2030,  
6 \$32,413,325;

7 (D) for each of fiscal years 2031 and  
8 2032, \$42,600,370;

9 (E) for each of fiscal years 2033 and  
10 2034, \$51,861,320; and

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

13 (2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—For each fiscal  
14 year described in paragraph (1), the amount author-  
15 ized to be appropriated for such fiscal year shall be  
16 increased by the percentage by which—

17 (A) the Consumer Price Index for the pre-  
18 vious fiscal year, exceeds

19 (B) the Consumer Price Index for the fis-  
20 cal year preceding the fiscal year described in  
21 subparagraph (A).

22 (3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
23 “Consumer Price Index” means the Consumer Price  
24 Index for All Urban Consumers (all items, United

1 States city average), published by the Bureau of  
2 Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

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

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

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

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

11 **SEC. 6. GAO REPORTS.**

12 (a) JUDICIAL CASELOADS.—Not later than 2 years  
13 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller  
14 General of the United States shall submit to the Com-  
15 mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee  
16 on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and  
17 make publicly available reports—

18 (1) evaluating—

19 (A) the accuracy and objectiveness of case-  
20 related workload measures and methodologies  
21 used by the Administrative Office of the United  
22 States Courts for district courts of the United  
23 States and courts of appeals of the United  
24 States;

1           (B) the impact of non-case-related activi-  
2           ties of judges of the district courts of the  
3           United States and courts of appeals of the  
4           United States on judicial caseloads; and

5           (C) the effectiveness and efficiency of the  
6           policies of the Administrative Office of the  
7           United States Courts regarding senior judges;  
8           and

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

12          (b) DETENTION SPACE.—The Comptroller General of  
13          the United States shall submit to the Committee on the  
14          Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judici-  
15          ary of the House of Representatives a report on an assess-  
16          ment of—

17               (1) a determination of the needs of Federal  
18               agencies for detention space;

19               (2) efforts by Federal agencies to acquire de-  
20               tention space; and

21               (3) any challenges in determining and acquiring  
22               detention space.

1 **SEC. 7. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY OF THE ARTICLE III JUDGE-**  
2 **SHIP RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUDICIAL**  
3 **CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES RE-**  
4 **PORT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrative Office of the  
6 United States Courts, in consultation with the Judicial  
7 Conference of the United States, shall make publicly avail-  
8 able on their website, free of charge, the biennial report  
9 entitled “Article III Judgeship Recommendations of the  
10 Judicial Conference of the United States”.

11 (b) CONTENTS.—The report described in subsection  
12 (a) should be released not less frequently than biennially  
13 and contain the summaries and all related appendixes sup-  
14 porting the judgeship recommendations of the Judicial  
15 Conference of the United States, including—

16 (1) the process used by the Judicial Conference  
17 in developing the recommendations;

18 (2) any caseload and methodology changes;

19 (3) judgeship surveys with recommendations;

20 and

21 (4) specific information about each court for  
22 which the Judicial Conference recommends addi-  
23 tional judgeships.

24 (c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Administrative  
25 Office of the United States Courts shall submit to the  
26 Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Com-

- 1 mittee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives
- 2 copies of the report described in subsection (a).

