

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

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

---

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ISSA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

---

**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”;
-----------------	-----

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 May 1, 2025.

9 (2) 2027.—

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;

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

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

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

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

5 (vi) 1 additional district judge for the  
6 southern district of Florida;

7 (vii) 1 additional district judge for the  
8 northern district of Georgia;

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

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

13 (x) 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, as  
17 amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection, is  
18 amended—

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

“Arizona ..... 13”;

21 (ii) by striking the items relating to  
22 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 May 1, 2027.

11 (3) 2029.—

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

15 (i) 1 additional district judge for the  
16 central district of California;

- 1 (ii) 1 additional district judge for the
- 2 eastern district of California;
- 3 (iii) 1 additional district judge for the
- 4 northern district of California;
- 5 (iv) 1 additional district judge for the
- 6 district of Colorado;
- 7 (v) 1 additional district judge for the
- 8 district of Delaware;
- 9 (vi) 1 additional district judge for the
- 10 district of Nebraska;
- 11 (vii) 1 additional district judge for the
- 12 eastern district of New York;
- 13 (viii) 1 additional district judge for
- 14 the eastern district of Texas;
- 15 (ix) 1 additional district judge for the
- 16 southern district of Texas; and
- 17 (x) 1 additional district judge 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 (2) of this subsection, is  
 22 amended—

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

“California:	
Northern .....	17
Eastern .....	9



Central .....	31
Southern .....	13”;

1                   (ii) by striking the item relating to  
2                   Colorado and inserting the following:

“Colorado .....

3                   (iii) by striking the item relating to  
4                   Delaware and inserting the following:

“Delaware .....

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

“Nebraska .....

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

“New York:

Northern .....	5
Southern .....	29
Eastern .....	16
Western .....	4”;

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

“Texas:

Northern .....	13
Southern .....	22
Eastern .....	9
Western .....	14”.

11                  (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph  
12                  shall take effect on May 1, 2029.

13                  (4) 2031.—

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 district of Arizona;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (ix) 1 additional district judge for the  
21 western district of New York; and

22 (x) 2 additional district judges 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 (3) of this subsection, is  
2 amended—

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

“Arizona ..... 14”;

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

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

7 (iii) by striking the items relating to  
8 Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:  
Northern ..... 4  
Middle ..... 18  
Southern ..... 19”;

9 (iv) by striking the item relating to  
10 New Jersey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey ..... 19”;

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

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

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

“Texas:

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

1                   (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph  
2 shall take effect on May 1, 2031.

3                   (5) 2033.—

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

7                   (i) 2 additional district judges for the  
8 central district of California;

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

11                   (iii) 1 additional district judge for the  
12 district of Colorado;

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

15                   (v) 1 additional district judge for the  
16 northern district of Florida;

17                   (vi) 1 additional district judge for the  
18 northern district of Georgia;

19                   (vii) 1 additional district judge for the  
20 southern district of New York;

21                   (viii) 1 additional district judge for  
22 the southern district of Texas; and

1 (ix) 1 additional district judge for the  
2 western 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 (4) of this subsection, is  
6 amended—

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

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

9 (ii) by striking the item relating to  
10 Colorado and inserting the following:

“Colorado .....	9”;
-----------------	-----

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

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

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

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

15 (v) by striking the items relating to  
16 New York and inserting the following:

“New York:	
------------	--

Northern .....	5
Southern .....	30
Eastern .....	16
Western .....	5”; and

1 (vi) 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 May 1, 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;

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”;
-------------------	------

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 May 1, 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 (A) 2 additional district judges for the  
9 eastern district of Oklahoma; and

10 (B) 1 additional district judge for the  
11 northern district of Oklahoma.

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

19 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall  
20 take effect on May 1, 2025.

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—



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

4                   (A) for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026,  
5                   \$12,965,330;

6                   (B) for each of fiscal years 2027 and  
7                   2028, \$23,152,375;

8                   (C) for each of fiscal years 2029 and 2030,  
9                   \$32,413,325;

10                  (D) for each of fiscal years 2031 and  
11                  2032, \$42,600,370;

12                  (E) for each of fiscal years 2033 and  
13                  2034, \$51,861,320; and

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

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

20                   (A) the Consumer Price Index for the pre-  
21                   vious fiscal year, exceeds

22                   (B) the Consumer Price Index for the fis-  
23                   cal year preceding the fiscal year described in  
24                   subparagraph (A).

1           (3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
2           “Consumer Price Index” means the Consumer Price  
3           Index for All Urban Consumers (all items, United  
4           States city average), published by the Bureau of  
5           Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

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

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

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

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

14 **SEC. 6. GAO REPORTS.**

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

21                   (1) evaluating—

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

1 States and courts of appeals of the United  
2 States;

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

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

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

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

19 (1) a determination of the needs of Federal  
20 agencies for detention space;

21 (2) efforts by Federal agencies to acquire de-  
22 tention space; and

23 (3) any challenges in determining and acquiring  
24 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).