**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 3529**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. W. Newton, Bannister, Caskey and Wooten

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Prefiled in the House on December 5, 2024

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Judiciary**

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**

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)

A bill

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:

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:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 22 | First Circuit | Four Judges |
| 23 | Second Circuit | Two Judges |
| 24 | Third Circuit | Three Judges |
| 25 | Fourth Circuit | Three Judges |
| 26 | Fifth Circuit | Four Judges |
| 27 | Sixth Circuit | Two Judges |
| 28 | Seventh Circuit | Four Judges |
| 29 | Eighth Circuit | Three Judges |
| 30 | Ninth Circuit | SixSeven Judges |
| 31 | Tenth Circuit | Three Judges |
| 32 | Eleventh Circuit | ThreeFour Judges |
| 33 | Twelfth Circuit | Three Judges |
| 34 | Thirteenth Circuit | Six Judges |
| 35 | Fourteenth Circuit | ThreeFour Judges |
| 36 | Fifteenth Circuit | Three Judges |
| 37 | Sixteenth Circuit | Three Judges. |

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.

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

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