

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4885

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2021

Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. SPARTZ, and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## 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” or the  
6 “JUDGES Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The Judicial Conference of the United  
2 States requested the creation of 77 new district  
3 judges in its 2021 report.

4           (2) The Judicial Conference of the United  
5 States has named 37 vacancies as judicial emer-  
6 gencies.

7           (3) As of March 31, 2021, there were 696,789  
8 pending cases, averaging 803 filings per judgeship.

9 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGES FOR THE DISTRICT**  
10 **COURTS.**

11 (a) ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIPS.—

12           (1) 2025.—On or after January 21, 2025, the  
13 President shall appoint, by and with the advice and  
14 consent of the Senate—

15                   (A) 1 additional district judge for the dis-  
16 trict of Arizona;

17                   (B) 7 additional district judges for the cen-  
18 tral district of California;

19                   (C) 2 additional district judges for the  
20 eastern district of California;

21                   (D) 3 additional district judges for the  
22 northern district of California;

23                   (E) 3 additional district judges for the  
24 southern district of California;

1           (F) 1 additional district judge for the dis-  
2           trict of Colorado;

3           (G) 1 additional district judge for the dis-  
4           trict of Delaware;

5           (H) 3 additional district judges for the  
6           middle district of Florida;

7           (I) 1 additional district judge for the  
8           northern district of Florida;

9           (J) 1 additional district judge for the  
10          southern district of Florida;

11          (K) 1 additional district judge for the  
12          northern district of Georgia;

13          (L) 1 additional district judge for the dis-  
14          trict of Idaho;

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

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

19          (O) 2 additional district judges for the dis-  
20          trict of New Jersey;

21          (P) 1 additional district judge for the dis-  
22          trict of New Mexico;

23          (Q) 1 additional district judge for the east-  
24          ern district of New York;

1 (R) 1 additional district judge for the  
2 southern district of New York;

3 (S) 1 additional district judge for the west-  
4 ern district of New York;

5 (T) 1 additional district judge for the east-  
6 ern district of Texas;

7 (U) 2 additional district judges for the  
8 southern district of Texas; and

9 (V) 3 additional district judges for the  
10 western district of Texas.

11 (2) 2029.—On or after January 21, 2029, the  
12 President shall appoint, by and with the advice and  
13 consent of the Senate—

14 (A) 3 additional district judges for the dis-  
15 trict of Arizona;

16 (B) 8 additional district judges for the cen-  
17 tral district of California;

18 (C) 2 additional district judges for the  
19 eastern district of California;

20 (D) 2 additional district judges for the  
21 northern district of California;

22 (E) 3 additional district judges for the  
23 southern district of California;

24 (F) 1 additional district judge for the dis-  
25 trict of Colorado;

1 (G) 1 additional district judge for the dis-  
2 trict of Delaware;

3 (H) 4 additional district judges for the  
4 middle district of Florida;

5 (I) 2 additional district judges for the  
6 southern district of Florida;

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

9 (K) 1 additional district judge for the  
10 southern district of Indiana;

11 (L) 3 additional district judges for the dis-  
12 trict of New Jersey;

13 (M) 1 additional district judge for the  
14 eastern district of New York;

15 (N) 1 additional district judge for the east-  
16 ern district of Texas;

17 (O) 2 additional district judges for the  
18 southern district of Texas; and

19 (P) 3 additional district judges for the  
20 western district of Texas.

21 (b) CONVERSION OF TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.—The  
22 existing judgeships for the district of Kansas, and the  
23 eastern district of Missouri authorized by section 203(c)  
24 of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (Public Law  
25 101–650; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) and the existing judgeships

1 for the northern district of Alabama, the district of Ari-  
 2 zona, the central district of California, the southern dis-  
 3 trict of Florida, the district of New Mexico, the western  
 4 district of North Carolina, and the eastern district of  
 5 Texas authorized by section 312(c) of the 21st Century  
 6 Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act  
 7 (Public Law 107–273, 28 U.S.C. 133 note), as of the date  
 8 of enactment of this Act, shall be authorized under section  
 9 133 of title 28, United States Code, and the incumbents  
 10 in those offices shall hold the office under section 133 of  
 11 title 28, United States Code, as amended by this Act.

12 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—  
 13 The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United  
 14 States Code, is amended—

15 (1) by striking the items relating to Alabama  
 16 and inserting the following:

“Alabama:	
Northern .....	8
Middle .....	3
Southern .....	3”;

17 (2) by striking the item relating to Arizona and  
 18 inserting the following:

“Arizona .....	17”;
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19 (3) by striking the items relating to California  
 20 and inserting the following:

“California:	
Northern .....	19
Eastern .....	10
Central .....	43

Southern ..... 19”;

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

“Colorado ..... 9”;

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

“Delaware ..... 6”;

- 5           (6) by striking the items relating to Florida and  
6           inserting the following:

“Florida:

Northern ..... 5  
Middle ..... 22  
Southern ..... 21”;

- 7           (7) by striking the items relating to Georgia  
8           and inserting the following:

“Georgia:

Northern ..... 13  
Middle ..... 4  
Southern ..... 3”;

- 9           (8) by striking the item relating to Idaho and  
10          inserting the following:

“Idaho ..... 3”;

- 11          (9) by striking the items relating to Indiana  
12          and inserting the following:

“Indiana:

Northern ..... 5  
Southern ..... 7”;

- 13          (10) by striking the items relating to Iowa and  
14          inserting the following:

“Iowa:

Northern .....	3
Southern .....	3”;

1           (11) by striking the item relating to Kansas  
2           and inserting the following:

“Kansas ..... 6”;

3           (12) by striking the items relating to Missouri  
4           and inserting the following:

“Missouri:

Eastern .....	7
Western .....	5
Eastern and Western .....	2”;

5           (13) by striking the item relating to New Jer-  
6           sey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey ..... 22”;

7           (14) by striking the item relating to New Mex-  
8           ico and inserting the following:

“New Mexico ..... 8”;

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

“New York:

Northern .....	5
Southern .....	29
Eastern .....	17
Western .....	5”;

11          (16) by striking the items relating to North  
12          Carolina and inserting the following:

“North Carolina:

Eastern .....	4
Middle .....	4
Western .....	5”;



1 and

2 (17) by striking the items relating to Texas and

3 inserting the following:

“Texas:	
Northern .....	12
Southern .....	23
Eastern .....	10
Western .....	19”.

4 **SEC. 4. GAO REPORT ON VACANT AND UNDERUTILIZED**  
5 **COURTHOUSES.**

6 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
7 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
8 shall make publicly available a report identifying Federal  
9 courthouses that are vacant or underused.

10 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
12 as may be necessary to carry out this Act and the amend-  
13 ments made by this Act, including such sums as may be  
14 necessary to provide appropriate space and facilities for  
15 the judicial positions created by this Act or an amendment  
16 made by this Act.

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