

LEGISLATIVE BILL 785

Approved by the Governor April 12, 1974

Introduced by Luedtke, 28

AN ACT to amend section 24-805, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, and section 24-503, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1972, relating to courts; to create new county judge districts; to provide the manner of selection and retention of county judges; to provide for judicial nominating commissioners for the office of county judge; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That section 24-503, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1972, be amended to read as follows:

24-503. For the purpose of serving the county courts in each county, twenty-one county judge districts are hereby created, which districts shall be the same as those established by section 5-105. ~~The districts shall consist of the following counties:~~

- (1) -- Richardson, -- Pawnee, -- Johnson, -- Nemaha, -- and
6toe;
- (2) -- Cass and Sarpy;
- (3) -- Lancaster;
- (4) -- Douglas;
- (5) -- Saunders, -- Tuttle, -- Folk, -- Hamilton, -- York, -- and
Seward;
- (6) -- Dodge, -- Washington, -- Furt, -- and -- Hursten;
- (7) -- Saline, -- Fillmore, -- Hay, -- and -- Nuckolls;
- (8) -- Cedar, -- Dixon, -- and -- Dakota;
- (9) -- Knox, -- Antelope, -- Pierce, -- Wayne, -- Madison,
Stanton, -- and -- Ewing;
- (10) -- Clay, -- Adams, -- Kearney, -- Phelps, -- Harlan,
Franklin, -- and -- Webster;
- (11) -- Hall and Howard;

{12}-Buffalo-and-Sheridan;

{13}-Lawson,-Lincoln,-Keith,-Arthur,-Meherson,
Logan,-Thomas,-Hocker,-and-Grant;

{14}-Perkins,-Chase,-Bundy,-Hayes,-Kitchcock,
Frontier,-Red-Willow,-Casper,-and-Furnas;

{15}-Cherry,-Keya-Paha,-Brown,-Rock,-Foyd,-and
Hoit;

{16}-Sheridan,-Bawes,-Fox-Butte,-and-Sioux;

{17}-Scotts-Bluff,-Morrill,-and-Garden;

{18}-Gage-and-Jefferson;

{19}-Banner,-Himnall,-Cheyenne,-and-Benedict;

{20}-Blaine,-Loup,-Garfield,-Wheeler,-Custer,
Valley,-and-Greeley;-and

{21}-Boone,-Nance,-Herrick,-Platte,-and-Colefax;

Districts 1, 11, 12, and 18 shall have one county judge. Districts 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 shall have two county judges. Districts 5, 9, 13, and 21 shall have three county judges.

Sec. 2. County judges shall be selected and retained in office in accordance with the provisions of Article V, section 21, of the Constitution of Nebraska. Each judge shall (1) be selected for a term of six years, and (2) hold office until his successor is selected and qualified. Any vacancy in the office of county judge shall be filled in the same manner as vacancies are filled under the provisions of Article V, section 21, of the Constitution.

Sec. 3. After a judge who has been appointed to the office of county judge has served as such judge for three full years, he shall be required to submit his right to continue in that office to the electorate at the next general election on a nonpartisan ballot which shall read: Shall Judge be retained in office for an additional term of six years? Yes No. In like manner each incumbent judge on the effective date of this act shall be required to submit his further retention in office for an additional term of six years to a similar vote of the electorate at the general election next preceding the expiration of his term of office. If the majority of the electors voting on the question at such election vote in the affirmative, the

judge shall be retained in office for an additional term of six years and his right to retain the office for any period thereafter shall depend upon further approval of the electorate in the manner provided in this section. If the majority of the voters voting on the question at such election vote in the negative, a vacancy in the office shall occur at the end of the term of office of the judge.

Sec. 4. Incumbent judges on the effective date of this act shall be entitled to serve out the term for which they were elected or appointed and thereafter their right to continue in office shall be subject to the provisions of this section and sections 2 and 3 of this act.

Sec. 5. That section 24-805, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

24-805. Except for the Supreme Court members of judicial nominating commissions, no individual lawyer or citizen member of any judicial nominating commission shall serve on more than one judicial nominating commission at the same time; Provided, judicial nominating commissioners for the office of district judge may also serve as judicial nominating commissioners for county judge.

Sec. 6. That original section 24-805, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, and section 24-503, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1972, are repealed.