

**As Passed by the Senate**

**132nd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2017-2018**

**Am. H. B. No. 174**

**Representatives Hughes, Lanese**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Duffey, Blessing, Craig, Smith, K., Boggs, Brown,  
Galonski, Barnes, Celebrezze, Clyde, Holmes, Leland, Patton, Rogers, Sheehy,  
Sprague, Sweeney, Young**

**Senators Coley, Bacon, Hackett, Kunze, Oelslager, Schiavoni, Tavares, Yuko**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 2301.02 and 2301.03 of the  
Revised Code to add two judges to the Domestic  
Relations Division of the Franklin County Court  
of Common Pleas, one to be elected in 2018 and  
one to be elected in 2020, and to declare an  
emergency.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 2301.02 and 2301.03 of the  
Revised Code be amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 2301.02.** The number of judges of the court of common  
pleas for each county, the time for the next election of the  
judges in the several counties, and the beginning of their terms  
shall be as follows:

(A) In Adams, Ashland, Fayette, and Pike counties, one  
judge, elected in 1956, term to begin February 9, 1957;

In Brown, Crawford, Defiance, Highland, Holmes, Morgan,

Ottawa, and Union counties, one judge, to be elected in 1954, 16  
term to begin February 9, 1955; 17

In Auglaize county, one judge, to be elected in 1956, term 18  
to begin January 9, 1957; 19

In Coshocton, Darke, Fulton, Gallia, Guernsey, Hardin, 20  
Jackson, Knox, Madison, Mercer, Monroe, Paulding, Vinton, and 21  
Wyandot counties, one judge, to be elected in 1956, term to 22  
begin January 1, 1957; 23

In Morrow county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 24  
term to begin January 1, 1957, and one to be elected in 2006, 25  
term to begin January 1, 2007; 26

In Logan county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 27  
term to begin January 1, 1957, and one to be elected in 2004, 28  
term to begin January 2, 2005; 29

In Carroll, Clinton, Hocking, Meigs, Pickaway, Preble, 30  
Shelby, Van Wert, and Williams counties, one judge, to be 31  
elected in 1952, term to begin January 1, 1953; 32

In Champaign county, two judges, one to be elected in 33  
1952, term to begin January 1, 1953, and one to be elected in 34  
2008, term to begin February 10, 2009; 35

In Harrison and Noble counties, one judge, to be elected 36  
in 1954, term to begin April 18, 1955; 37

In Henry county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 38  
term to begin May 9, 1957, and one to be elected in 2004, term 39  
to begin January 1, 2005; 40

In Putnam county, one judge, to be elected in 1956, term 41  
to begin May 9, 1957; 42

In Huron county, one judge, to be elected in 1952, term to	43
begin May 14, 1953;	44
 In Perry county, one judge, to be elected in 1954, term to	45
begin July 6, 1956;	46
 In Sandusky county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954,	47
term to begin February 10, 1955, and one to be elected in 1978,	48
term to begin January 1, 1979.	49
 (B) In Allen county, three judges, one to be elected in	50
1956, term to begin February 9, 1957, the second to be elected	51
in 1958, term to begin January 1, 1959, and the third to be	52
elected in 1992, term to begin January 1, 1993;	53
 In Ashtabula county, three judges, one to be elected in	54
1954, term to begin February 9, 1955, one to be elected in 1960,	55
term to begin January 1, 1961, and one to be elected in 1978,	56
term to begin January 2, 1979;	57
 In Athens county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954,	58
term to begin February 9, 1955, and one to be elected in 1990,	59
term to begin July 1, 1991;	60
 In Erie county, four judges, one to be elected in 1956,	61
term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 1970,	62
term to begin January 2, 1971, the third to be elected in 2004,	63
term to begin January 2, 2005, and the fourth to be elected in	64
2008, term to begin February 9, 2009;	65
 In Fairfield county, three judges, one to be elected in	66
1954, term to begin February 9, 1955, the second to be elected	67
in 1970, term to begin January 1, 1971, and the third to be	68
elected in 1994, term to begin January 2, 1995;	69
 In Geauga county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956,	70

term to begin January 1, 1957, and the second to be elected in 71  
1976, term to begin January 6, 1977; 72

In Greene county, four judges, one to be elected in 1956, 73  
term to begin February 9, 1957, the second to be elected in 74  
1960, term to begin January 1, 1961, the third to be elected in 75  
1978, term to begin January 2, 1979, and the fourth to be 76  
elected in 1994, term to begin January 1, 1995; 77

In Hancock county, two judges, one to be elected in 1952, 78  
term to begin January 1, 1953, and the second to be elected in 79  
1978, term to begin January 1, 1979; 80

In Lawrence county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954, 81  
term to begin February 9, 1955, and the second to be elected in 82  
1976, term to begin January 1, 1977; 83

In Marion county, three judges, one to be elected in 1952, 84  
term to begin January 1, 1953, the second to be elected in 1976, 85  
term to begin January 2, 1977, and the third to be elected in 86  
1998, term to begin February 9, 1999; 87

In Medina county, three judges, one to be elected in 1956, 88  
term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 1966, 89  
term to begin January 1, 1967, and the third to be elected in 90  
1994, term to begin January 1, 1995; 91

In Miami county, two judges, one to be elected in 1954, 92  
term to begin February 9, 1955, and one to be elected in 1970, 93  
term to begin on January 1, 1971; 94

In Muskingum county, three judges, one to be elected in 95  
1968, term to begin August 9, 1969, one to be elected in 1978, 96  
term to begin January 1, 1979, and one to be elected in 2002, 97  
term to begin January 2, 2003; 98

In Portage county, three judges, one to be elected in	99
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in	100
1960, term to begin January 1, 1961, and the third to be elected	101
in 1986, term to begin January 2, 1987;	102
In Ross county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956,	103
term to begin February 9, 1957, and the second to be elected in	104
1976, term to begin January 1, 1977;	105
In Scioto county, three judges, one to be elected in 1954,	106
term to begin February 10, 1955, the second to be elected in	107
1960, term to begin January 1, 1961, and the third to be elected	108
in 1994, term to begin January 2, 1995;	109
In Seneca county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956,	110
term to begin January 1, 1957, and the second to be elected in	111
1986, term to begin January 2, 1987;	112
In Warren county, four judges, one to be elected in 1954,	113
term to begin February 9, 1955, the second to be elected in	114
1970, term to begin January 1, 1971, the third to be elected in	115
1986, term to begin January 1, 1987, and the fourth to be	116
elected in 2004, term to begin January 2, 2005;	117
In Washington county, two judges, one to be elected in	118
1952, term to begin January 1, 1953, and one to be elected in	119
1986, term to begin January 1, 1987;	120
In Wood county, three judges, one to be elected in 1968,	121
term beginning January 1, 1969, the second to be elected in	122
1970, term to begin January 2, 1971, and the third to be elected	123
in 1990, term to begin January 1, 1991;	124
In Belmont and Jefferson counties, two judges, to be	125
elected in 1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 9,	126
1955, respectively;	127

In Clark county, four judges, one to be elected in 1952, 128  
term to begin January 1, 1953, the second to be elected in 1956, 129  
term to begin January 2, 1957, the third to be elected in 1986, 130  
term to begin January 3, 1987, and the fourth to be elected in 131  
1994, term to begin January 2, 1995; 132

In Clermont county, five judges, one to be elected in 133  
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 134  
1964, term to begin January 1, 1965, the third to be elected in 135  
1982, term to begin January 2, 1983, the fourth to be elected in 136  
1986, term to begin January 2, 1987, and the fifth to be elected 137  
in 2006, term to begin January 3, 2007; 138

In Columbiana county, two judges, one to be elected in 139  
1952, term to begin January 1, 1953, and the second to be 140  
elected in 1956, term to begin January 1, 1957; 141

In Delaware county, three judges, one to be elected in 142  
1990, term to begin February 9, 1991, the second to be elected 143  
in 1994, term to begin January 1, 1995, and the third to be 144  
elected in 2016, term to begin January 1, 2017; 145

In Lake county, six judges, one to be elected in 1958, 146  
term to begin January 1, 1959, the second to be elected in 1960, 147  
term to begin January 2, 1961, the third to be elected in 1964, 148  
term to begin January 3, 1965, the fourth and fifth to be 149  
elected in 1978, terms to begin January 4, 1979, and January 5, 150  
1979, respectively, and the sixth to be elected in 2000, term to 151  
begin January 6, 2001; 152

In Licking county, four judges, one to be elected in 1954, 153  
term to begin February 9, 1955, one to be elected in 1964, term 154  
to begin January 1, 1965, one to be elected in 1990, term to 155  
begin January 1, 1991, and one to be elected in 2004, term to 156

begin January 1, 2005; 157

In Lorain county, nine judges, two to be elected in 1952, 158  
terms to begin January 1, 1953, and January 2, 1953, 159  
respectively, one to be elected in 1958, term to begin January 160  
3, 1959, one to be elected in 1968, term to begin January 1, 161  
1969, two to be elected in 1988, terms to begin January 4, 1989, 162  
and January 5, 1989, respectively, two to be elected in 1998, 163  
terms to begin January 2, 1999, and January 3, 1999, 164  
respectively; and one to be elected in 2006, term to begin 165  
January 6, 2007; 166

In Butler county, eleven judges, one to be elected in 167  
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957; two to be elected in 1954, 168  
terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 9, 1955, 169  
respectively; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin January 170  
2, 1969; one to be elected in 1986, term to begin January 3, 171  
1987; two to be elected in 1988, terms to begin January 1, 1989, 172  
and January 2, 1989, respectively; one to be elected in 1992, 173  
term to begin January 4, 1993; two to be elected in 2002, terms 174  
to begin January 2, 2003, and January 3, 2003, respectively; and 175  
one to be elected in 2006, term to begin January 3, 2007; 176

In Richland county, four judges, one to be elected in 177  
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957, the second to be elected in 178  
1960, term to begin February 9, 1961, the third to be elected in 179  
1968, term to begin January 2, 1969, and the fourth to be 180  
elected in 2004, term to begin January 3, 2005; 181

In Tuscarawas county, two judges, one to be elected in 182  
1956, term to begin January 1, 1957, and the second to be 183  
elected in 1960, term to begin January 2, 1961; 184

In Wayne county, two judges, one to be elected in 1956, 185

term beginning January 1, 1957, and one to be elected in 1968, 186  
term to begin January 2, 1969; 187

In Trumbull county, six judges, one to be elected in 1952, 188  
term to begin January 1, 1953, the second to be elected in 1954, 189  
term to begin January 1, 1955, the third to be elected in 1956, 190  
term to begin January 1, 1957, the fourth to be elected in 1964, 191  
term to begin January 1, 1965, the fifth to be elected in 1976, 192  
term to begin January 2, 1977, and the sixth to be elected in 193  
1994, term to begin January 3, 1995; 194

(C) In Cuyahoga county, thirty-nine judges; eight to be 195  
elected in 1954, terms to begin on successive days beginning 196  
from January 1, 1955, to January 7, 1955, and February 9, 1955, 197  
respectively; eight to be elected in 1956, terms to begin on 198  
successive days beginning from January 1, 1957, to January 8, 199  
1957; three to be elected in 1952, terms to begin from January 200  
1, 1953, to January 3, 1953; two to be elected in 1960, terms to 201  
begin on January 8, 1961, and January 9, 1961, respectively; two 202  
to be elected in 1964, terms to begin January 4, 1965, and 203  
January 5, 1965, respectively; one to be elected in 1966, term 204  
to begin on January 10, 1967; four to be elected in 1968, terms 205  
to begin on successive days beginning from January 9, 1969, to 206  
January 12, 1969; two to be elected in 1974, terms to begin on 207  
January 18, 1975, and January 19, 1975, respectively; five to be 208  
elected in 1976, terms to begin on successive days beginning 209  
January 6, 1977, to January 10, 1977; two to be elected in 1982, 210  
terms to begin January 11, 1983, and January 12, 1983, 211  
respectively; and two to be elected in 1986, terms to begin 212  
January 13, 1987, and January 14, 1987, respectively; 213

In Franklin county, ~~twenty-two~~ twenty-four judges; two to 214  
be elected in 1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 215



9, 1955, respectively; four to be elected in 1956, terms to 216  
begin January 1, 1957, to January 4, 1957; four to be elected in 217  
1958, terms to begin January 1, 1959, to January 4, 1959; three 218  
to be elected in 1968, terms to begin January 5, 1969, to 219  
January 7, 1969; three to be elected in 1976, terms to begin on 220  
successive days beginning January 5, 1977, to January 7, 1977; 221  
one to be elected in 1982, term to begin January 8, 1983; one to 222  
be elected in 1986, term to begin January 9, 1987; two to be 223  
elected in 1990, terms to begin July 1, 1991, and July 2, 1991, 224  
respectively; one to be elected in 1996, term to begin January 225  
2, 1997; ~~and one to be elected in 2004, term to begin July 1,~~ 226  
2005; one to be elected in 2018, term to begin January 9, 2019; 227  
and one to be elected in 2020, term to begin January 2, 2021; 228

In Hamilton county, twenty-one judges; eight to be elected 229  
in 1966, terms to begin January 1, 1967, January 2, 1967, and 230  
from February 9, 1967, to February 14, 1967, respectively; five 231  
to be elected in 1956, terms to begin from January 1, 1957, to 232  
January 5, 1957; one to be elected in 1964, term to begin 233  
January 1, 1965; one to be elected in 1974, term to begin 234  
January 15, 1975; one to be elected in 1980, term to begin 235  
January 16, 1981; two to be elected at large in the general 236  
election in 1982, terms to begin April 1, 1983; one to be 237  
elected in 1990, term to begin July 1, 1991; and two to be 238  
elected in 1996, terms to begin January 3, 1997, and January 4, 239  
1997, respectively; 240

In Lucas county, fourteen judges; two to be elected in 241  
1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, and February 9, 1955, 242  
respectively; two to be elected in 1956, terms to begin January 243  
1, 1957, and October 29, 1957, respectively; two to be elected 244  
in 1952, terms to begin January 1, 1953, and January 2, 1953, 245  
respectively; one to be elected in 1964, term to begin January 246

3, 1965; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin January 4, 247  
1969; two to be elected in 1976, terms to begin January 4, 1977, 248  
and January 5, 1977, respectively; one to be elected in 1982, 249  
term to begin January 6, 1983; one to be elected in 1988, term 250  
to begin January 7, 1989; one to be elected in 1990, term to 251  
begin January 2, 1991; and one to be elected in 1992, term to 252  
begin January 2, 1993; 253

In Mahoning county, seven judges; three to be elected in 254  
1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, January 2, 1955, and 255  
February 9, 1955, respectively; one to be elected in 1956, term 256  
to begin January 1, 1957; one to be elected in 1952, term to 257  
begin January 1, 1953; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin 258  
January 2, 1969; and one to be elected in 1990, term to begin 259  
July 1, 1991; 260

In Montgomery county, fifteen judges; three to be elected 261  
in 1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, January 2, 1955, and 262  
January 3, 1955, respectively; four to be elected in 1952, terms 263  
to begin January 1, 1953, January 2, 1953, July 1, 1953, and 264  
July 2, 1953, respectively; one to be elected in 1964, term to 265  
begin January 3, 1965; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin 266  
January 3, 1969; three to be elected in 1976, terms to begin on 267  
successive days beginning January 4, 1977, to January 6, 1977; 268  
two to be elected in 1990, terms to begin July 1, 1991, and July 269  
2, 1991, respectively; and one to be elected in 1992, term to 270  
begin January 1, 1993; 271

In Stark county, eight judges; one to be elected in 1958, 272  
term to begin on January 2, 1959; two to be elected in 1954, 273  
terms to begin on January 1, 1955, and February 9, 1955, 274  
respectively; two to be elected in 1952, terms to begin January 275  
1, 1953, and April 16, 1953, respectively; one to be elected in 276

1966, term to begin on January 4, 1967; and two to be elected in 277  
1992, terms to begin January 1, 1993, and January 2, 1993, 278  
respectively; 279

In Summit county, thirteen judges; four to be elected in 280  
1954, terms to begin January 1, 1955, January 2, 1955, January 281  
3, 1955, and February 9, 1955, respectively; three to be elected 282  
in 1958, terms to begin January 1, 1959, January 2, 1959, and 283  
May 17, 1959, respectively; one to be elected in 1966, term to 284  
begin January 4, 1967; one to be elected in 1968, term to begin 285  
January 5, 1969; one to be elected in 1990, term to begin May 1, 286  
1991; one to be elected in 1992, term to begin January 6, 1993; 287  
and two to be elected in 2008, terms to begin January 5, 2009, 288  
and January 6, 2009, respectively. 289

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, in any county 290  
having two or more judges of the court of common pleas, in which 291  
more than one-third of the judges plus one were previously 292  
elected at the same election, if the office of one of those 293  
judges so elected becomes vacant more than forty days prior to 294  
the second general election preceding the expiration of that 295  
judge's term, the office that that judge had filled shall be 296  
abolished as of the date of the next general election, and a new 297  
office of judge of the court of common pleas shall be created. 298  
The judge who is to fill that new office shall be elected for a 299  
six-year term at the next general election, and the term of that 300  
judge shall commence on the first day of the year following that 301  
general election, on which day no other judge's term begins, so 302  
that the number of judges that the county shall elect shall not 303  
be reduced. 304

Judges of the probate division of the court of common 305  
pleas are judges of the court of common pleas but shall be 306

elected pursuant to sections 2101.02 and 2101.021 of the Revised 307  
Code, except in Adams, Harrison, Henry, Morgan, Noble, and 308  
Wyandot counties in which the judge of the court of common pleas 309  
elected pursuant to this section also shall serve as judge of 310  
the probate division, except in Lorain county in which the 311  
judges of the domestic relations division of the Lorain county 312  
court of common pleas elected pursuant to this section also 313  
shall perform the duties and functions of the judge of the 314  
probate division from February 9, 2009, through September 28, 315  
2009, and except in Morrow county in which the judges of the 316  
court of common pleas elected pursuant to this section also 317  
shall perform the duties and functions of the judge of the 318  
probate division. 319

**Sec. 2301.03.** (A) In Franklin county, the judges of the 320  
court of common pleas whose terms begin on January 1, 1953, 321  
January 2, 1953, January 5, 1969, January 5, 1977, ~~and~~ January 322  
2, 1997, January 9, 2019, and January 2, 2021, and successors, 323  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 324  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 325  
of the court of common pleas of Franklin county and shall be 326  
elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, 327  
division of domestic relations. They shall have all the powers 328  
relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. 329  
and 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage proceedings under 330  
Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code over which the juvenile court 331  
has jurisdiction, and all divorce, dissolution of marriage, 332  
legal separation, and annulment cases shall be assigned to them. 333  
In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge who is 334  
senior in point of service shall serve on the children services 335  
board and the county advisory board and shall be the 336  
administrator of the domestic relations division and its 337

subdivisions and departments. 338

(B) In Hamilton county: 339

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas, whose term 340  
begins on January 1, 1957, and successors, and the judge of the 341  
court of common pleas, whose term begins on February 14, 1967, 342  
and successors, shall be the juvenile judges as provided in 343  
Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, with the powers 344  
and jurisdiction conferred by those chapters. 345

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 346  
begin on January 5, 1957, January 16, 1981, and July 1, 1991, 347  
and successors, shall be elected and designated as judges of the 348  
court of common pleas, division of domestic relations, and shall 349  
have assigned to them all divorce, dissolution of marriage, 350  
legal separation, and annulment cases coming before the court. 351  
On or after the first day of July and before the first day of 352  
August of 1991 and each year thereafter, a majority of the 353  
judges of the division of domestic relations shall elect one of 354  
the judges of the division as administrative judge of that 355  
division. If a majority of the judges of the division of 356  
domestic relations are unable for any reason to elect an 357  
administrative judge for the division before the first day of 358  
August, a majority of the judges of the Hamilton county court of 359  
common pleas, as soon as possible after that date, shall elect 360  
one of the judges of the division of domestic relations as 361  
administrative judge of that division. The term of the 362  
administrative judge shall begin on the earlier of the first day 363  
of August of the year in which the administrative judge is 364  
elected or the date on which the administrative judge is elected 365  
by a majority of the judges of the Hamilton county court of 366  
common pleas and shall terminate on the date on which the 367

administrative judge's successor is elected in the following 368  
year. 369

In addition to the judge's regular duties, the 370  
administrative judge of the division of domestic relations shall 371  
be the administrator of the domestic relations division and its 372  
subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of the 373  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 374  
division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating 375  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 376  
annulment cases, including any referees considered necessary by 377  
the judges in the discharge of their various duties. 378

The administrative judge of the division of domestic 379  
relations also shall designate the title, compensation, expense 380  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 381  
personnel of the division, and shall fix the duties of its 382  
personnel. The duties of the personnel, in addition to those 383  
provided for in other sections of the Revised Code, shall 384  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 385  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 386  
and counseling and conciliation services that may be made 387  
available to persons requesting them, whether or not the persons 388  
are parties to an action pending in the division. 389

The board of county commissioners shall appropriate the 390  
sum of money each year as will meet all the administrative 391  
expenses of the division of domestic relations, including 392  
reasonable expenses of the domestic relations judges and the 393  
division counselors and other employees designated to conduct 394  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 395  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 396  
conciliation and counseling, and all matters relating to those 397

cases and counseling, and the expenses involved in the 398  
attendance of division personnel at domestic relations and 399  
welfare conferences designated by the division, and the further 400  
sum each year as will provide for the adequate operation of the 401  
division of domestic relations. 402

The compensation and expenses of all employees and the 403  
salary and expenses of the judges shall be paid by the county 404  
treasurer from the money appropriated for the operation of the 405  
division, upon the warrant of the county auditor, certified to 406  
by the administrative judge of the division of domestic 407  
relations. 408

The summonses, warrants, citations, subpoenas, and other 409  
writs of the division may issue to a bailiff, constable, or 410  
staff investigator of the division or to the sheriff of any 411  
county or any marshal, constable, or police officer, and the 412  
provisions of law relating to the subpoenaing of witnesses in 413  
other cases shall apply insofar as they are applicable. When a 414  
summons, warrant, citation, subpoena, or other writ is issued to 415  
an officer, other than a bailiff, constable, or staff 416  
investigator of the division, the expense of serving it shall be 417  
assessed as a part of the costs in the case involved. 418

(3) The judge of the court of common pleas of Hamilton 419  
county whose term begins on January 3, 1997, and the successors 420  
to that judge shall each be elected and designated as the drug 421  
court judge of the court of common pleas of Hamilton county. The 422  
drug court judge may accept or reject any case referred to the 423  
drug court judge under division (B)(3) of this section. After 424  
the drug court judge accepts a referred case, the drug court 425  
judge has full authority over the case, including the authority 426  
to conduct arraignment, accept pleas, enter findings and 427

dispositions, conduct trials, order treatment, and if treatment 428  
is not successfully completed pronounce and enter sentence. 429

A judge of the general division of the court of common 430  
pleas of Hamilton county and a judge of the Hamilton county 431  
municipal court may refer to the drug court judge any case, and 432  
any companion cases, the judge determines meet the criteria 433  
described under divisions (B)(3)(a) and (b) of this section. If 434  
the drug court judge accepts referral of a referred case, the 435  
case, and any companion cases, shall be transferred to the drug 436  
court judge. A judge may refer a case meeting the criteria 437  
described in divisions (B)(3)(a) and (b) of this section that 438  
involves a violation of a condition of a community control 439  
sanction to the drug court judge, and, if the drug court judge 440  
accepts the referral, the referring judge and the drug court 441  
judge have concurrent jurisdiction over the case. 442

A judge of the general division of the court of common 443  
pleas of Hamilton county and a judge of the Hamilton county 444  
municipal court may refer a case to the drug court judge under 445  
division (B)(3) of this section if the judge determines that 446  
both of the following apply: 447

(a) One of the following applies: 448

(i) The case involves a drug abuse offense, as defined in 449  
section 2925.01 of the Revised Code, that is a felony of the 450  
third or fourth degree if the offense is committed prior to July 451  
1, 1996, a felony of the third, fourth, or fifth degree if the 452  
offense is committed on or after July 1, 1996, or a misdemeanor. 453

(ii) The case involves a theft offense, as defined in 454  
section 2913.01 of the Revised Code, that is a felony of the 455  
third or fourth degree if the offense is committed prior to July 456



1, 1996, a felony of the third, fourth, or fifth degree if the 457  
offense is committed on or after July 1, 1996, or a misdemeanor, 458  
and the defendant is drug or alcohol dependent or in danger of 459  
becoming drug or alcohol dependent and would benefit from 460  
treatment. 461

(b) All of the following apply: 462

(i) The case involves an offense for which a community 463  
control sanction may be imposed or is a case in which a 464  
mandatory prison term or a mandatory jail term is not required 465  
to be imposed. 466

(ii) The defendant has no history of violent behavior. 467

(iii) The defendant has no history of mental illness. 468

(iv) The defendant's current or past behavior, or both, is 469  
drug or alcohol driven. 470

(v) The defendant demonstrates a sincere willingness to 471  
participate in a fifteen-month treatment process. 472

(vi) The defendant has no acute health condition. 473

(vii) If the defendant is incarcerated, the county 474  
prosecutor approves of the referral. 475

(4) If the administrative judge of the court of common 476  
pleas of Hamilton county determines that the volume of cases 477  
pending before the drug court judge does not constitute a 478  
sufficient caseload for the drug court judge, the administrative 479  
judge, in accordance with the Rules of Superintendence for 480  
Courts of Common Pleas, shall assign individual cases to the 481  
drug court judge from the general docket of the court. If the 482  
assignments so occur, the administrative judge shall cease the 483  
assignments when the administrative judge determines that the 484

volume of cases pending before the drug court judge constitutes 485  
a sufficient caseload for the drug court judge. 486

(5) As used in division (B) of this section, "community 487  
control sanction," "mandatory prison term," and "mandatory jail 488  
term" have the same meanings as in section 2929.01 of the 489  
Revised Code. 490

(C) (1) In Lorain county: 491

(a) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 492  
begin on January 3, 1959, January 4, 1989, and January 2, 1999, 493  
and successors, and the judge of the court of common pleas whose 494  
term begins on February 9, 2009, shall have the same 495  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 496  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 497  
of common pleas of Lorain county and shall be elected and 498  
designated as the judges of the court of common pleas, division 499  
of domestic relations. The judges of the court of common pleas 500  
whose terms begin on January 3, 1959, January 4, 1989, and 501  
January 2, 1999, and successors, shall have all of the powers 502  
relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. 503  
and 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage proceedings over 504  
which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, and all divorce, 505  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 506  
shall be assigned to them, except cases that for some special 507  
reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of common 508  
pleas. From February 9, 2009, through September 28, 2009, the 509  
judge of the court of common pleas whose term begins on February 510  
9, 2009, shall have all the powers relating to juvenile courts, 511  
and cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, 512  
parentage proceedings over which the juvenile court has 513  
jurisdiction, and divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 514

separation, and annulment cases shall be assigned to that judge, 515  
except cases that for some special reason are assigned to some 516  
other judge of the court of common pleas. 517

(b) From January 1, 2006, through September 28, 2009, the 518  
judges of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 519  
relations, in addition to the powers and jurisdiction set forth 520  
in division (C)(1)(a) of this section, shall have jurisdiction 521  
over matters that are within the jurisdiction of the probate 522  
court under Chapter 2101. and other provisions of the Revised 523  
Code. 524

(c) The judge of the court of common pleas, division of 525  
domestic relations, whose term begins on February 9, 2009, is 526  
the successor to the probate judge who was elected in 2002 for a 527  
term that began on February 9, 2003. After September 28, 2009, 528  
the judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 529  
relations, whose term begins on February 9, 2009, shall be the 530  
probate judge. 531

(2)(a) From February 9, 2009, through September 28, 2009, 532  
with respect to Lorain county, all references in law to the 533  
probate court shall be construed as references to the court of 534  
common pleas, division of domestic relations, and all references 535  
to the probate judge shall be construed as references to the 536  
judges of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 537  
relations. 538

(b) From February 9, 2009, through September 28, 2009, 539  
with respect to Lorain county, all references in law to the 540  
clerk of the probate court shall be construed as references to 541  
the judge who is serving pursuant to Rule 4 of the Rules of 542  
Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio as the administrative 543  
judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 544

relations. 545

(D) In Lucas county: 546

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 547  
begin on January 1, 1955, and January 3, 1965, and successors, 548  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 549  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 550  
of the court of common pleas of Lucas county and shall be 551  
elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, 552  
division of domestic relations. All divorce, dissolution of 553  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases shall be 554  
assigned to them. 555

The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in 556  
point of service, shall be considered as the presiding judge of 557  
the court of common pleas, division of domestic relations, and 558  
shall be charged exclusively with the assignment and division of 559  
the work of the division and the employment and supervision of 560  
all other personnel of the domestic relations division. 561

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 562  
begin on January 5, 1977, and January 2, 1991, and successors 563  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 564  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 565  
of the court of common pleas of Lucas county, shall be elected 566  
and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, juvenile 567  
division, and shall be the juvenile judges as provided in 568  
Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code with the powers and 569  
jurisdictions conferred by those chapters. In addition to the 570  
judge's regular duties, the judge of the court of common pleas, 571  
juvenile division, senior in point of service, shall be the 572  
administrator of the juvenile division and its subdivisions and 573  
departments and shall have charge of the employment, assignment, 574

and supervision of the personnel of the division engaged in 575  
handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile cases, including 576  
any referees considered necessary by the judges of the division 577  
in the discharge of their various duties. 578

The judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, 579  
senior in point of service, also shall designate the title, 580  
compensation, expense allowance, hours, leaves of absence, and 581  
vacation of the personnel of the division and shall fix the 582  
duties of the personnel of the division. The duties of the 583  
personnel, in addition to other statutory duties include the 584  
handling, servicing, and investigation of juvenile cases and 585  
counseling and conciliation services that may be made available 586  
to persons requesting them, whether or not the persons are 587  
parties to an action pending in the division. 588

(3) If one of the judges of the court of common pleas, 589  
division of domestic relations, or one of the judges of the 590  
juvenile division is sick, absent, or unable to perform that 591  
judge's judicial duties or the volume of cases pending in that 592  
judge's division necessitates it, the duties shall be performed 593  
by the judges of the other of those divisions. 594

(E) In Mahoning county: 595

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 596  
began on January 1, 1955, and successors, shall have the same 597  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 598  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 599  
common pleas of Mahoning county, shall be elected and designated 600  
as judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 601  
relations, and shall be assigned all the divorce, dissolution of 602  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases coming before 603  
the court. In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge 604

of the court of common pleas, division of domestic relations, 605  
shall be the administrator of the domestic relations division 606  
and its subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of 607  
the employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of 608  
the division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating 609  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 610  
annulment cases, including any referees considered necessary in 611  
the discharge of the various duties of the judge's office. 612

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 613  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of 614  
the personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 615  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 616  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 617  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 618  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and counseling 619  
and conciliation services that may be made available to persons 620  
requesting them, whether or not the persons are parties to an 621  
action pending in the division. 622

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 623  
began on January 2, 1969, and successors, shall have the same 624  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 625  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 626  
common pleas of Mahoning county, shall be elected and designated 627  
as judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and 628  
shall be the juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 629  
2152. of the Revised Code, with the powers and jurisdictions 630  
conferred by those chapters. In addition to the judge's regular 631  
duties, the judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile 632  
division, shall be the administrator of the juvenile division 633  
and its subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of 634  
the employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of 635

the division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating 636  
juvenile cases, including any referees considered necessary by 637  
the judge in the discharge of the judge's various duties. 638

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 639  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacation of 640  
the personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 641  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 642  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 643  
servicing, and investigation of juvenile cases and counseling 644  
and conciliation services that may be made available to persons 645  
requesting them, whether or not the persons are parties to an 646  
action pending in the division. 647

(3) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 648  
domestic relations or juvenile division, is sick, absent, or 649  
unable to perform that judge's judicial duties, or the volume of 650  
cases pending in that judge's division necessitates it, that 651  
judge's duties shall be performed by another judge of the court 652  
of common pleas. 653

(F) In Montgomery county: 654

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 655  
begin on January 2, 1953, and January 4, 1977, and successors, 656  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 657  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 658  
of the court of common pleas of Montgomery county and shall be 659  
elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, 660  
division of domestic relations. These judges shall have assigned 661  
to them all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, 662  
and annulment cases. 663

The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in 664

point of service, shall be charged exclusively with the 665  
assignment and division of the work of the division and shall 666  
have charge of the employment and supervision of the personnel 667  
of the division engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating 668  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 669  
annulment cases, including any necessary referees, except those 670  
employees who may be appointed by the judge, junior in point of 671  
service, under this section and sections 2301.12 and 2301.18 of 672  
the Revised Code. The judge of the division of domestic 673  
relations, senior in point of service, also shall designate the 674  
title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of 675  
absence, and vacation of the personnel of the division and shall 676  
fix their duties. 677

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 678  
begin on January 1, 1953, and January 1, 1993, and successors, 679  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 680  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 681  
of the court of common pleas of Montgomery county, shall be 682  
elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, 683  
juvenile division, and shall be, and have the powers and 684  
jurisdiction of, the juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 685  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code. 686

In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge of 687  
the court of common pleas, juvenile division, senior in point of 688  
service, shall be the administrator of the juvenile division and 689  
its subdivisions and departments and shall have charge of the 690  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 691  
juvenile division, including any necessary referees, who are 692  
engaged in handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile cases. 693  
The judge, senior in point of service, also shall designate the 694  
title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of 695



absence, and vacation of the personnel of the division and shall 696  
fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to 697  
other statutory duties, shall include the handling, servicing, 698  
and investigation of juvenile cases and of any counseling and 699  
conciliation services that are available upon request to 700  
persons, whether or not they are parties to an action pending in 701  
the division. 702

If one of the judges of the court of common pleas, 703  
division of domestic relations, or one of the judges of the 704  
court of common pleas, juvenile division, is sick, absent, or 705  
unable to perform that judge's duties or the volume of cases 706  
pending in that judge's division necessitates it, the duties of 707  
that judge may be performed by the judge or judges of the other 708  
of those divisions. 709

(G) In Richland county: 710

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 711  
begins on January 1, 1957, and successors, shall have the same 712  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 713  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 714  
of common pleas of Richland county and shall be elected and 715  
designated as judge of the court of common pleas, division of 716  
domestic relations. That judge shall be assigned and hear all 717  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 718  
annulment cases, all domestic violence cases arising under 719  
section 3113.31 of the Revised Code, and all post-decree 720  
proceedings arising from any case pertaining to any of those 721  
matters. The division of domestic relations has concurrent 722  
jurisdiction with the juvenile division of the court of common 723  
pleas of Richland county to determine the care, custody, or 724  
control of any child not a ward of another court of this state, 725

and to hear and determine a request for an order for the support 726  
of any child if the request is not ancillary to an action for 727  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, annulment, or legal 728  
separation, a criminal or civil action involving an allegation 729  
of domestic violence, or an action for support brought under 730  
Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code. Except in cases that are 731  
subject to the exclusive original jurisdiction of the juvenile 732  
court, the judge of the division of domestic relations shall be 733  
assigned and hear all cases pertaining to paternity or 734  
parentage, the care, custody, or control of children, parenting 735  
time or visitation, child support, or the allocation of parental 736  
rights and responsibilities for the care of children, all 737  
proceedings arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, all 738  
proceedings arising under the uniform interstate family support 739  
act contained in Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code, and all 740  
post-decree proceedings arising from any case pertaining to any 741  
of those matters. 742

In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge of 743  
the court of common pleas, division of domestic relations, shall 744  
be the administrator of the domestic relations division and its 745  
subdivisions and departments. The judge shall have charge of the 746  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 747  
domestic relations division, including any magistrates the judge 748  
considers necessary for the discharge of the judge's duties. The 749  
judge shall also designate the title, compensation, expense 750  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, vacation, and other 751  
employment-related matters of the personnel of the division and 752  
shall fix their duties. 753

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 754  
begins on January 3, 2005, and successors, shall have the same 755  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 756

receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 757  
common pleas of Richland county, shall be elected and designated 758  
as judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and 759  
shall be, and have the powers and jurisdiction of, the juvenile 760  
judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised 761  
Code. Except in cases that are subject to the exclusive original 762  
jurisdiction of the juvenile court, the judge of the juvenile 763  
division shall not have jurisdiction or the power to hear, and 764  
shall not be assigned, any case pertaining to paternity or 765  
parentage, the care, custody, or control of children, parenting 766  
time or visitation, child support, or the allocation of parental 767  
rights and responsibilities for the care of children or any 768  
post-decree proceeding arising from any case pertaining to any 769  
of those matters. The judge of the juvenile division shall not 770  
have jurisdiction or the power to hear, and shall not be 771  
assigned, any proceeding under the uniform interstate family 772  
support act contained in Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code. 773

In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge of 774  
the juvenile division shall be the administrator of the juvenile 775  
division and its subdivisions and departments. The judge shall 776  
have charge of the employment, assignment, and supervision of 777  
the personnel of the juvenile division who are engaged in 778  
handling, servicing, or investigating juvenile cases, including 779  
any magistrates whom the judge considers necessary for the 780  
discharge of the judge's various duties. 781

The judge of the juvenile division also shall designate 782  
the title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of 783  
absence, and vacation of the personnel of the division and shall 784  
fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to 785  
other statutory duties, include the handling, servicing, and 786  
investigation of juvenile cases and providing any counseling, 787

conciliation, and mediation services that the court makes 788  
available to persons, whether or not the persons are parties to 789  
an action pending in the court, who request the services. 790

(H) (1) In Stark county, the judges of the court of common 791  
pleas whose terms begin on January 1, 1953, January 2, 1959, and 792  
January 1, 1993, and successors, shall have the same 793  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 794  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 795  
common pleas of Stark county and shall be elected and designated 796  
as judges of the court of common pleas, family court division. 797  
They shall have all the powers relating to juvenile courts, and 798  
all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, 799  
all parentage proceedings over which the juvenile court has 800  
jurisdiction, and all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 801  
separation, and annulment cases, except cases that are assigned 802  
to some other judge of the court of common pleas for some 803  
special reason, shall be assigned to the judges. 804

(2) The judge of the family court division, second most 805  
senior in point of service, shall have charge of the employment 806  
and supervision of the personnel of the division engaged in 807  
handling, servicing, or investigating divorce, dissolution of 808  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, and necessary 809  
referees required for the judge's respective court. 810

(3) The judge of the family court division, senior in 811  
point of service, shall be charged exclusively with the 812  
administration of sections 2151.13, 2151.16, 2151.17, and 813  
2152.71 of the Revised Code and with the assignment and division 814  
of the work of the division and the employment and supervision 815  
of all other personnel of the division, including, but not 816  
limited to, that judge's necessary referees, but excepting those 817

employees who may be appointed by the judge second most senior 818  
in point of service. The senior judge further shall serve in 819  
every other position in which the statutes permit or require a 820  
juvenile judge to serve. 821

(4) On and after ~~the effective date of this amendment~~ 822  
September 29, 2015, all references in law to "the division of 823  
domestic relations," "the domestic relations division," "the 824  
domestic relations court," "the judge of the division of 825  
domestic relations," or "the judge of the domestic relations 826  
division" shall be construed, with respect to Stark county, as 827  
being references to "the family court division" or "the judge of 828  
the family court division." 829

(I) In Summit county: 830

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 831  
begin on January 4, 1967, and January 6, 1993, and successors, 832  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 833  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 834  
of the court of common pleas of Summit county and shall be 835  
elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, 836  
division of domestic relations. The judges of the division of 837  
domestic relations shall have assigned to them and hear all 838  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 839  
annulment cases that come before the court. Except in cases that 840  
are subject to the exclusive original jurisdiction of the 841  
juvenile court, the judges of the division of domestic relations 842  
shall have assigned to them and hear all cases pertaining to 843  
paternity, custody, visitation, child support, or the allocation 844  
of parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children 845  
and all post-decree proceedings arising from any case pertaining 846  
to any of those matters. The judges of the division of domestic 847

relations shall have assigned to them and hear all proceedings 848  
under the uniform interstate family support act contained in 849  
Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code. 850

The judge of the division of domestic relations, senior in 851  
point of service, shall be the administrator of the domestic 852  
relations division and its subdivisions and departments and 853  
shall have charge of the employment, assignment, and supervision 854  
of the personnel of the division, including any necessary 855  
referees, who are engaged in handling, servicing, or 856  
investigating divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 857  
separation, and annulment cases. That judge also shall designate 858  
the title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of 859  
absence, and vacations of the personnel of the division and 860  
shall fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition 861  
to other statutory duties, shall include the handling, 862  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 863  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and of any 864  
counseling and conciliation services that are available upon 865  
request to all persons, whether or not they are parties to an 866  
action pending in the division. 867

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 868  
begins on January 1, 1955, and successors, shall have the same 869  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 870  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 871  
common pleas of Summit county, shall be elected and designated 872  
as judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and 873  
shall be, and have the powers and jurisdiction of, the juvenile 874  
judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised 875  
Code. Except in cases that are subject to the exclusive original 876  
jurisdiction of the juvenile court, the judge of the juvenile 877  
division shall not have jurisdiction or the power to hear, and 878

shall not be assigned, any case pertaining to paternity, 879  
custody, visitation, child support, or the allocation of 880  
parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children or 881  
any post-decree proceeding arising from any case pertaining to 882  
any of those matters. The judge of the juvenile division shall 883  
not have jurisdiction or the power to hear, and shall not be 884  
assigned, any proceeding under the uniform interstate family 885  
support act contained in Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code. 886

The juvenile judge shall be the administrator of the 887  
juvenile division and its subdivisions and departments and shall 888  
have charge of the employment, assignment, and supervision of 889  
the personnel of the juvenile division, including any necessary 890  
referees, who are engaged in handling, servicing, or 891  
investigating juvenile cases. The judge also shall designate the 892  
title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of 893  
absence, and vacation of the personnel of the division and shall 894  
fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition to 895  
other statutory duties, shall include the handling, servicing, 896  
and investigation of juvenile cases and of any counseling and 897  
conciliation services that are available upon request to 898  
persons, whether or not they are parties to an action pending in 899  
the division. 900

(J) In Trumbull county, the judges of the court of common 901  
pleas whose terms begin on January 1, 1953, and January 2, 1977, 902  
and successors, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the 903  
same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation 904  
as other judges of the court of common pleas of Trumbull county 905  
and shall be elected and designated as judges of the court of 906  
common pleas, division of domestic relations. They shall have 907  
all the powers relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under 908  
Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage 909

proceedings over which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, and 910  
all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 911  
annulment cases shall be assigned to them, except cases that for 912  
some special reason are assigned to some other judge of the 913  
court of common pleas. 914

(K) In Butler county: 915

(1) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 916  
begin on January 1, 1957, and January 4, 1993, and successors, 917  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 918  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 919  
of the court of common pleas of Butler county and shall be 920  
elected and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, 921  
division of domestic relations. The judges of the division of 922  
domestic relations shall have assigned to them all divorce, 923  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 924  
coming before the court, except in cases that for some special 925  
reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of common 926  
pleas. The judges of the division of domestic relations also 927  
have concurrent jurisdiction with judges of the juvenile 928  
division of the court of common pleas of Butler county with 929  
respect to and may hear cases to determine the custody, support, 930  
or custody and support of a child who is born of issue of a 931  
marriage and who is not the ward of another court of this state, 932  
cases commenced by a party of the marriage to obtain an order 933  
requiring support of any child when the request for that order 934  
is not ancillary to an action for divorce, dissolution of 935  
marriage, annulment, or legal separation, a criminal or civil 936  
action involving an allegation of domestic violence, an action 937  
for support under Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code, or an 938  
action that is within the exclusive original jurisdiction of the 939  
juvenile division of the court of common pleas of Butler county 940



and that involves an allegation that the child is an abused, 941  
neglected, or dependent child, and post-decree proceedings and 942  
matters arising from those types of cases. The judge senior in 943  
point of service shall be charged with the assignment and 944  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 945  
supervision of all other personnel of the domestic relations 946  
division. 947

The judge senior in point of service also shall designate 948  
the title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, leaves of 949  
absence, and vacations of the personnel of the division and 950  
shall fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in addition 951  
to other statutory duties, shall include the handling, 952  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 953  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases and providing 954  
any counseling and conciliation services that the division makes 955  
available to persons, whether or not the persons are parties to 956  
an action pending in the division, who request the services. 957

(2) The judges of the court of common pleas whose terms 958  
begin on January 3, 1987, and January 2, 2003, and successors, 959  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 960  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 961  
of the court of common pleas of Butler county, shall be elected 962  
and designated as judges of the court of common pleas, juvenile 963  
division, and shall be the juvenile judges as provided in 964  
Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, with the powers 965  
and jurisdictions conferred by those chapters. Except in cases 966  
that are subject to the exclusive original jurisdiction of the 967  
juvenile court, the judges of the juvenile division shall not 968  
have jurisdiction or the power to hear and shall not be 969  
assigned, but shall have the limited ability and authority to 970  
certify, any case commenced by a party of a marriage to 971

determine the custody, support, or custody and support of a 972  
child who is born of issue of the marriage and who is not the 973  
ward of another court of this state when the request for the 974  
order in the case is not ancillary to an action for divorce, 975  
dissolution of marriage, annulment, or legal separation. The 976  
judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, who is 977  
senior in point of service, shall be the administrator of the 978  
juvenile division and its subdivisions and departments. The 979  
judge, senior in point of service, shall have charge of the 980  
employment, assignment, and supervision of the personnel of the 981  
juvenile division who are engaged in handling, servicing, or 982  
investigating juvenile cases, including any referees whom the 983  
judge considers necessary for the discharge of the judge's 984  
various duties. 985

The judge, senior in point of service, also shall 986  
designate the title, compensation, expense allowances, hours, 987  
leaves of absence, and vacation of the personnel of the division 988  
and shall fix their duties. The duties of the personnel, in 989  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 990  
servicing, and investigation of juvenile cases and providing any 991  
counseling and conciliation services that the division makes 992  
available to persons, whether or not the persons are parties to 993  
an action pending in the division, who request the services. 994

(3) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 995  
domestic relations or juvenile division, is sick, absent, or 996  
unable to perform that judge's judicial duties or the volume of 997  
cases pending in the judge's division necessitates it, the 998  
duties of that judge shall be performed by the other judges of 999  
the domestic relations and juvenile divisions. 1000

(L) (1) In Cuyahoga county, the judges of the court of 1001

common pleas whose terms begin on January 8, 1961, January 9, 1002  
1961, January 18, 1975, January 19, 1975, and January 13, 1987, 1003  
and successors, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the 1004  
same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation 1005  
as other judges of the court of common pleas of Cuyahoga county 1006  
and shall be elected and designated as judges of the court of 1007  
common pleas, division of domestic relations. They shall have 1008  
all the powers relating to all divorce, dissolution of marriage, 1009  
legal separation, and annulment cases, except in cases that are 1010  
assigned to some other judge of the court of common pleas for 1011  
some special reason. 1012

(2) The administrative judge is administrator of the 1013  
domestic relations division and its subdivisions and departments 1014  
and has the following powers concerning division personnel: 1015

(a) Full charge of the employment, assignment, and 1016  
supervision; 1017

(b) Sole determination of compensation, duties, expenses, 1018  
allowances, hours, leaves, and vacations. 1019

(3) "Division personnel" include persons employed or 1020  
referees engaged in hearing, servicing, investigating, 1021  
counseling, or conciliating divorce, dissolution of marriage, 1022  
legal separation and annulment matters. 1023

(M) In Lake county: 1024

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 1025  
begins on January 2, 1961, and successors, shall have the same 1026  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1027  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 1028  
of common pleas of Lake county and shall be elected and 1029  
designated as judge of the court of common pleas, division of 1030

domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all the divorce, 1031  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 1032  
coming before the court, except in cases that for some special 1033  
reason are assigned to some other judge of the court of common 1034  
pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and 1035  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 1036  
supervision of all other personnel of the domestic relations 1037  
division. 1038

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1039  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of 1040  
the personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The 1041  
duties of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, 1042  
shall include the handling, servicing, and investigation of 1043  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1044  
annulment cases and providing any counseling and conciliation 1045  
services that the division makes available to persons, whether 1046  
or not the persons are parties to an action pending in the 1047  
division, who request the services. 1048

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 1049  
begins on January 4, 1979, and successors, shall have the same 1050  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1051  
receive the same compensation as other judges of the court of 1052  
common pleas of Lake county, shall be elected and designated as 1053  
judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile division, and shall 1054  
be the juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of 1055  
the Revised Code, with the powers and jurisdictions conferred by 1056  
those chapters. The judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile 1057  
division, shall be the administrator of the juvenile division 1058  
and its subdivisions and departments. The judge shall have 1059  
charge of the employment, assignment, and supervision of the 1060  
personnel of the juvenile division who are engaged in handling, 1061

servicing, or investigating juvenile cases, including any 1062  
referees whom the judge considers necessary for the discharge of 1063  
the judge's various duties. 1064

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1065  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacation of 1066  
the personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The 1067  
duties of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, 1068  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of juvenile 1069  
cases and providing any counseling and conciliation services 1070  
that the division makes available to persons, whether or not the 1071  
persons are parties to an action pending in the division, who 1072  
request the services. 1073

(3) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 1074  
domestic relations or juvenile division, is sick, absent, or 1075  
unable to perform that judge's judicial duties or the volume of 1076  
cases pending in the judge's division necessitates it, the 1077  
duties of that judge shall be performed by the other judges of 1078  
the domestic relations and juvenile divisions. 1079

(N) In Erie county: 1080

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 1081  
begins on January 2, 1971, and the successors to that judge 1082  
whose terms begin before January 2, 2007, shall have the same 1083  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1084  
receive the same compensation as the other judge of the court of 1085  
common pleas of Erie county and shall be elected and designated 1086  
as judge of the court of common pleas, division of domestic 1087  
relations. The judge shall have all the powers relating to 1088  
juvenile courts, and shall be assigned all cases under Chapters 1089  
2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code, parentage proceedings over 1090  
which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, and divorce, 1091

dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1092  
except cases that for some special reason are assigned to some 1093  
other judge. 1094

On or after January 2, 2007, the judge of the court of 1095  
common pleas who is elected in 2006 shall be the successor to 1096  
the judge of the domestic relations division whose term expires 1097  
on January 1, 2007, shall be designated as judge of the court of 1098  
common pleas, juvenile division, and shall be the juvenile judge 1099  
as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the Revised Code with 1100  
the powers and jurisdictions conferred by those chapters. 1101

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas, general 1102  
division, whose term begins on January 1, 2005, and successors, 1103  
the judge of the court of common pleas, general division whose 1104  
term begins on January 2, 2005, and successors, and the judge of 1105  
the court of common pleas, general division, whose term begins 1106  
February 9, 2009, and successors, shall have assigned to them, 1107  
in addition to all matters that are within the jurisdiction of 1108  
the general division of the court of common pleas, all divorce, 1109  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 1110  
coming before the court, and all matters that are within the 1111  
jurisdiction of the probate court under Chapter 2101., and other 1112  
provisions, of the Revised Code. 1113

(0) In Greene county: 1114

(1) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 1115  
begins on January 1, 1961, and successors, shall have the same 1116  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1117  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 1118  
of common pleas of Greene county and shall be elected and 1119  
designated as the judge of the court of common pleas, division 1120  
of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all divorce, 1121

dissolution of marriage, legal separation, annulment, uniform 1122  
reciprocal support enforcement, and domestic violence cases and 1123  
all other cases related to domestic relations, except cases that 1124  
for some special reason are assigned to some other judge of the 1125  
court of common pleas. 1126

The judge shall be charged with the assignment and 1127  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 1128  
supervision of all other personnel of the division. The judge 1129  
also shall designate the title, compensation, hours, leaves of 1130  
absence, and vacations of the personnel of the division and 1131  
shall fix their duties. The duties of the personnel of the 1132  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include 1133  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 1134  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 1135  
and the provision of counseling and conciliation services that 1136  
the division considers necessary and makes available to persons 1137  
who request the services, whether or not the persons are parties 1138  
in an action pending in the division. The compensation for the 1139  
personnel shall be paid from the overall court budget and shall 1140  
be included in the appropriations for the existing judges of the 1141  
general division of the court of common pleas. 1142

(2) The judge of the court of common pleas whose term 1143  
begins on January 1, 1995, and successors, shall have the same 1144  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1145  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 1146  
of common pleas of Greene county, shall be elected and 1147  
designated as judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile 1148  
division, and, on or after January 1, 1995, shall be the 1149  
juvenile judge as provided in Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the 1150  
Revised Code with the powers and jurisdiction conferred by those 1151  
chapters. The judge of the court of common pleas, juvenile 1152

division, shall be the administrator of the juvenile division 1153  
and its subdivisions and departments. The judge shall have 1154  
charge of the employment, assignment, and supervision of the 1155  
personnel of the juvenile division who are engaged in handling, 1156  
servicing, or investigating juvenile cases, including any 1157  
referees whom the judge considers necessary for the discharge of 1158  
the judge's various duties. 1159

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1160  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacation of 1161  
the personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The 1162  
duties of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, 1163  
include the handling, servicing, and investigation of juvenile 1164  
cases and providing any counseling and conciliation services 1165  
that the court makes available to persons, whether or not the 1166  
persons are parties to an action pending in the court, who 1167  
request the services. 1168

(3) If one of the judges of the court of common pleas, 1169  
general division, is sick, absent, or unable to perform that 1170  
judge's judicial duties or the volume of cases pending in the 1171  
general division necessitates it, the duties of that judge of 1172  
the general division shall be performed by the judge of the 1173  
division of domestic relations and the judge of the juvenile 1174  
division. 1175

(P) In Portage county, the judge of the court of common 1176  
pleas, whose term begins January 2, 1987, and successors, shall 1177  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1178  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1179  
judges of the court of common pleas of Portage county and shall 1180  
be elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1181  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1182



divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1183  
annulment cases coming before the court, except in cases that 1184  
for some special reason are assigned to some other judge of the 1185  
court of common pleas. The judge shall be charged with the 1186  
assignment and division of the work of the division and with the 1187  
employment and supervision of all other personnel of the 1188  
domestic relations division. 1189

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1190  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of 1191  
the personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The 1192  
duties of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, 1193  
shall include the handling, servicing, and investigation of 1194  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1195  
annulment cases and providing any counseling and conciliation 1196  
services that the division makes available to persons, whether 1197  
or not the persons are parties to an action pending in the 1198  
division, who request the services. 1199

(Q) In Clermont county, the judge of the court of common 1200  
pleas, whose term begins January 2, 1987, and successors, shall 1201  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1202  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1203  
judges of the court of common pleas of Clermont county and shall 1204  
be elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1205  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1206  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1207  
annulment cases coming before the court, except in cases that 1208  
for some special reason are assigned to some other judge of the 1209  
court of common pleas. The judge shall be charged with the 1210  
assignment and division of the work of the division and with the 1211  
employment and supervision of all other personnel of the 1212  
domestic relations division. 1213

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1214  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of 1215  
the personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The 1216  
duties of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, 1217  
shall include the handling, servicing, and investigation of 1218  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1219  
annulment cases and providing any counseling and conciliation 1220  
services that the division makes available to persons, whether 1221  
or not the persons are parties to an action pending in the 1222  
division, who request the services. 1223

(R) In Warren county, the judge of the court of common 1224  
pleas, whose term begins January 1, 1987, and successors, shall 1225  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1226  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1227  
judges of the court of common pleas of Warren county and shall 1228  
be elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1229  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1230  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1231  
annulment cases coming before the court, except in cases that 1232  
for some special reason are assigned to some other judge of the 1233  
court of common pleas. The judge shall be charged with the 1234  
assignment and division of the work of the division and with the 1235  
employment and supervision of all other personnel of the 1236  
domestic relations division. 1237

The judge also shall designate the title, compensation, 1238  
expense allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of 1239  
the personnel of the division and shall fix their duties. The 1240  
duties of the personnel, in addition to other statutory duties, 1241  
shall include the handling, servicing, and investigation of 1242  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1243  
annulment cases and providing any counseling and conciliation 1244

services that the division makes available to persons, whether 1245  
or not the persons are parties to an action pending in the 1246  
division, who request the services. 1247

(S) In Licking county, the judges of the court of common 1248  
pleas, whose terms begin on January 1, 1991, and January 1, 1249  
2005, and successors, shall have the same qualifications, 1250  
exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same 1251  
compensation as the other judges of the court of common pleas of 1252  
Licking county and shall be elected and designated as judges of 1253  
the court of common pleas, division of domestic relations. The 1254  
judges shall be assigned all divorce, dissolution of marriage, 1255  
legal separation, and annulment cases, all cases arising under 1256  
Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, all proceedings involving 1257  
child support, the allocation of parental rights and 1258  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation 1259  
for the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 1260  
parenting time, and visitation, and all post-decree proceedings 1261  
and matters arising from those cases and proceedings, except in 1262  
cases that for some special reason are assigned to another judge 1263  
of the court of common pleas. The administrative judge of the 1264  
division of domestic relations shall be charged with the 1265  
assignment and division of the work of the division and with the 1266  
employment and supervision of the personnel of the division. 1267

The administrative judge of the division of domestic 1268  
relations shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1269  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1270  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1271  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel of the 1272  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include 1273  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 1274  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1275

cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and 1276  
proceedings involving child support, the allocation of parental 1277  
rights and responsibilities for the care of children and the 1278  
designation for the children of a place of residence and legal 1279  
custodian, parenting time, and visitation and providing any 1280  
counseling and conciliation services that the division makes 1281  
available to persons, whether or not the persons are parties to 1282  
an action pending in the division, who request the services. 1283

(T) In Allen county, the judge of the court of common 1284  
pleas, whose term begins January 1, 1993, and successors, shall 1285  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1286  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1287  
judges of the court of common pleas of Allen county and shall be 1288  
elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1289  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1290  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1291  
annulment cases, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the 1292  
Revised Code, all proceedings involving child support, the 1293  
allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care 1294  
of children and the designation for the children of a place of 1295  
residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and visitation, 1296  
and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising from those 1297  
cases and proceedings, except in cases that for some special 1298  
reason are assigned to another judge of the court of common 1299  
pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and 1300  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 1301  
supervision of the personnel of the division. 1302

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1303  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1304  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1305  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel of the 1306

division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include 1307  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 1308  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1309  
cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and 1310  
proceedings involving child support, the allocation of parental 1311  
rights and responsibilities for the care of children and the 1312  
designation for the children of a place of residence and legal 1313  
custodian, parenting time, and visitation, and providing any 1314  
counseling and conciliation services that the division makes 1315  
available to persons, whether or not the persons are parties to 1316  
an action pending in the division, who request the services. 1317

(U) In Medina county, the judge of the court of common 1318  
pleas whose term begins January 1, 1995, and successors, shall 1319  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1320  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 1321  
of the court of common pleas of Medina county and shall be 1322  
elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1323  
division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1324  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1325  
annulment cases, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the 1326  
Revised Code, all proceedings involving child support, the 1327  
allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care 1328  
of children and the designation for the children of a place of 1329  
residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and visitation, 1330  
and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising from those 1331  
cases and proceedings, except in cases that for some special 1332  
reason are assigned to another judge of the court of common 1333  
pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and 1334  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 1335  
supervision of the personnel of the division. 1336

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1337

allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1338  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1339  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 1340  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 1341  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 1342  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, cases arising 1343  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and proceedings 1344  
involving child support, the allocation of parental rights and 1345  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation 1346  
for the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 1347  
parenting time, and visitation, and providing counseling and 1348  
conciliation services that the division makes available to 1349  
persons, whether or not the persons are parties to an action 1350  
pending in the division, who request the services. 1351

(V) In Fairfield county, the judge of the court of common 1352  
pleas whose term begins January 2, 1995, and successors, shall 1353  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1354  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1355  
judges of the court of common pleas of Fairfield county and 1356  
shall be elected and designated as judge of the court of common 1357  
pleas, division of domestic relations. The judge shall be 1358  
assigned all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, 1359  
and annulment cases, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of 1360  
the Revised Code, all proceedings involving child support, the 1361  
allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care 1362  
of children and the designation for the children of a place of 1363  
residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and visitation, 1364  
and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising from those 1365  
cases and proceedings, except in cases that for some special 1366  
reason are assigned to another judge of the court of common 1367  
pleas. The judge also has concurrent jurisdiction with the 1368

probate-juvenile division of the court of common pleas of 1369  
Fairfield county with respect to and may hear cases to determine 1370  
the custody of a child, as defined in section 2151.011 of the 1371  
Revised Code, who is not the ward of another court of this 1372  
state, cases that are commenced by a parent, guardian, or 1373  
custodian of a child, as defined in section 2151.011 of the 1374  
Revised Code, to obtain an order requiring a parent of the child 1375  
to pay child support for that child when the request for that 1376  
order is not ancillary to an action for divorce, dissolution of 1377  
marriage, annulment, or legal separation, a criminal or civil 1378  
action involving an allegation of domestic violence, an action 1379  
for support under Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code, or an 1380  
action that is within the exclusive original jurisdiction of the 1381  
probate-juvenile division of the court of common pleas of 1382  
Fairfield county and that involves an allegation that the child 1383  
is an abused, neglected, or dependent child, and post-decree 1384  
proceedings and matters arising from those types of cases. 1385

The judge of the domestic relations division shall be 1386  
charged with the assignment and division of the work of the 1387  
division and with the employment and supervision of the 1388  
personnel of the division. 1389

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1390  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1391  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1392  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel of the 1393  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include 1394  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 1395  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1396  
cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and 1397  
proceedings involving child support, the allocation of parental 1398  
rights and responsibilities for the care of children and the 1399

designation for the children of a place of residence and legal 1400  
custodian, parenting time, and visitation, and providing any 1401  
counseling and conciliation services that the division makes 1402  
available to persons, regardless of whether the persons are 1403  
parties to an action pending in the division, who request the 1404  
services. When the judge hears a case to determine the custody 1405  
of a child, as defined in section 2151.011 of the Revised Code, 1406  
who is not the ward of another court of this state or a case 1407  
that is commenced by a parent, guardian, or custodian of a 1408  
child, as defined in section 2151.011 of the Revised Code, to 1409  
obtain an order requiring a parent of the child to pay child 1410  
support for that child when the request for that order is not 1411  
ancillary to an action for divorce, dissolution of marriage, 1412  
annulment, or legal separation, a criminal or civil action 1413  
involving an allegation of domestic violence, an action for 1414  
support under Chapter 3115. of the Revised Code, or an action 1415  
that is within the exclusive original jurisdiction of the 1416  
probate-juvenile division of the court of common pleas of 1417  
Fairfield county and that involves an allegation that the child 1418  
is an abused, neglected, or dependent child, the duties of the 1419  
personnel of the domestic relations division also include the 1420  
handling, servicing, and investigation of those types of cases. 1421

(W) (1) In Clark county, the judge of the court of common 1422  
pleas whose term begins on January 2, 1995, and successors, 1423  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1424  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 1425  
of the court of common pleas of Clark county and shall be 1426  
elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1427  
domestic relations division. The judge shall have all the powers 1428  
relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. 1429  
and 2152. of the Revised Code and all parentage proceedings 1430



under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code over which the juvenile 1431  
court has jurisdiction shall be assigned to the judge of the 1432  
division of domestic relations. All divorce, dissolution of 1433  
marriage, legal separation, annulment, uniform reciprocal 1434  
support enforcement, and other cases related to domestic 1435  
relations shall be assigned to the domestic relations division, 1436  
and the presiding judge of the court of common pleas shall 1437  
assign the cases to the judge of the domestic relations division 1438  
and the judges of the general division. 1439

(2) In addition to the judge's regular duties, the judge 1440  
of the division of domestic relations shall serve on the 1441  
children services board and the county advisory board. 1442

(3) If the judge of the court of common pleas of Clark 1443  
county, division of domestic relations, is sick, absent, or 1444  
unable to perform that judge's judicial duties or if the 1445  
presiding judge of the court of common pleas of Clark county 1446  
determines that the volume of cases pending in the division of 1447  
domestic relations necessitates it, the duties of the judge of 1448  
the division of domestic relations shall be performed by the 1449  
judges of the general division or probate division of the court 1450  
of common pleas of Clark county, as assigned for that purpose by 1451  
the presiding judge of that court, and the judges so assigned 1452  
shall act in conjunction with the judge of the division of 1453  
domestic relations of that court. 1454

(X) In Scioto county, the judge of the court of common 1455  
pleas whose term begins January 2, 1995, and successors, shall 1456  
have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1457  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as other judges 1458  
of the court of common pleas of Scioto county and shall be 1459  
elected and designated as judge of the court of common pleas, 1460

division of domestic relations. The judge shall be assigned all 1461  
divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and 1462  
annulment cases, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the 1463  
Revised Code, all proceedings involving child support, the 1464  
allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care 1465  
of children and the designation for the children of a place of 1466  
residence and legal custodian, parenting time, visitation, and 1467  
all post-decree proceedings and matters arising from those cases 1468  
and proceedings, except in cases that for some special reason 1469  
are assigned to another judge of the court of common pleas. The 1470  
judge shall be charged with the assignment and division of the 1471  
work of the division and with the employment and supervision of 1472  
the personnel of the division. 1473

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1474  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1475  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1476  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel, in 1477  
addition to other statutory duties, include the handling, 1478  
servicing, and investigation of divorce, dissolution of 1479  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, cases arising 1480  
under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and proceedings 1481  
involving child support, the allocation of parental rights and 1482  
responsibilities for the care of children and the designation 1483  
for the children of a place of residence and legal custodian, 1484  
parenting time, and visitation, and providing counseling and 1485  
conciliation services that the division makes available to 1486  
persons, whether or not the persons are parties to an action 1487  
pending in the division, who request the services. 1488

(Y) In Auglaize county, the judge of the probate and 1489  
juvenile divisions of the Auglaize county court of common pleas 1490  
also shall be the administrative judge of the domestic relations 1491

division of the court and shall be assigned all divorce, 1492  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases 1493  
coming before the court. The judge shall have all powers as 1494  
administrator of the domestic relations division and shall have 1495  
charge of the personnel engaged in handling, servicing, or 1496  
investigating divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1497  
separation, and annulment cases, including any referees 1498  
considered necessary for the discharge of the judge's various 1499  
duties. 1500

(Z) (1) In Marion county, the judge of the court of common 1501  
pleas whose term begins on February 9, 1999, and the successors 1502  
to that judge, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the 1503  
same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation 1504  
as the other judges of the court of common pleas of Marion 1505  
county and shall be elected and designated as judge of the court 1506  
of common pleas, domestic relations-juvenile-probate division. 1507  
Except as otherwise specified in this division, that judge, and 1508  
the successors to that judge, shall have all the powers relating 1509  
to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. 1510  
of the Revised Code, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of 1511  
the Revised Code, all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1512  
separation, and annulment cases, all proceedings involving child 1513  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 1514  
for the care of children and the designation for the children of 1515  
a place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 1516  
visitation, and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising 1517  
from those cases and proceedings shall be assigned to that judge 1518  
and the successors to that judge. Except as provided in division 1519  
(Z) (2) of this section and notwithstanding any other provision 1520  
of any section of the Revised Code, on and after February 9, 1521  
2003, the judge of the court of common pleas of Marion county 1522

whose term begins on February 9, 1999, and the successors to 1523  
that judge, shall have all the powers relating to the probate 1524  
division of the court of common pleas of Marion county in 1525  
addition to the powers previously specified in this division, 1526  
and shall exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the judge of the 1527  
probate division of that court over all matters that are within 1528  
the jurisdiction of the probate division of that court under 1529  
Chapter 2101., and other provisions, of the Revised Code in 1530  
addition to the jurisdiction of the domestic relations-juvenile- 1531  
probate division of that court otherwise specified in division 1532  
(Z) (1) of this section. 1533

(2) The judge of the domestic relations-juvenile-probate 1534  
division of the court of common pleas of Marion county or the 1535  
judge of the probate division of the court of common pleas of 1536  
Marion county, whichever of those judges is senior in total 1537  
length of service on the court of common pleas of Marion county, 1538  
regardless of the division or divisions of service, shall serve 1539  
as the clerk of the probate division of the court of common 1540  
pleas of Marion county. 1541

(3) On and after February 9, 2003, all references in law 1542  
to "the probate court," "the probate judge," "the juvenile 1543  
court," or "the judge of the juvenile court" shall be construed, 1544  
with respect to Marion county, as being references to both "the 1545  
probate division" and "the domestic relations-juvenile-probate 1546  
division" and as being references to both "the judge of the 1547  
probate division" and "the judge of the domestic relations- 1548  
juvenile-probate division." On and after February 9, 2003, all 1549  
references in law to "the clerk of the probate court" shall be 1550  
construed, with respect to Marion county, as being references to 1551  
the judge who is serving pursuant to division (Z) (2) of this 1552  
section as the clerk of the probate division of the court of 1553

common pleas of Marion county. 1554

(AA) In Muskingum county, the judge of the court of common 1555  
pleas whose term begins on January 2, 2003, and successors, 1556  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1557  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1558  
judges of the court of common pleas of Muskingum county and 1559  
shall be elected and designated as the judge of the court of 1560  
common pleas, division of domestic relations. The judge shall be 1561  
assigned all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, 1562  
and annulment cases, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of 1563  
the Revised Code, all proceedings involving child support, the 1564  
allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care 1565  
of children and the designation for the children of a place of 1566  
residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and visitation, 1567  
and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising from those 1568  
cases and proceedings, except in cases that for some special 1569  
reason are assigned to another judge of the court of common 1570  
pleas. The judge shall be charged with the assignment and 1571  
division of the work of the division and with the employment and 1572  
supervision of the personnel of the division. 1573

The judge shall designate the title, compensation, expense 1574  
allowances, hours, leaves of absence, and vacations of the 1575  
personnel of the division and shall fix the duties of the 1576  
personnel of the division. The duties of the personnel of the 1577  
division, in addition to other statutory duties, shall include 1578  
the handling, servicing, and investigation of divorce, 1579  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1580  
cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code, and 1581  
proceedings involving child support, the allocation of parental 1582  
rights and responsibilities for the care of children and the 1583  
designation for the children of a place of residence and legal 1584

custodian, parenting time, and visitation and providing any 1585  
counseling and conciliation services that the division makes 1586  
available to persons, whether or not the persons are parties to 1587  
an action pending in the division, who request the services. 1588

(BB) In Henry county, the judge of the court of common 1589  
pleas whose term begins on January 1, 2005, and successors, 1590  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1591  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1592  
judge of the court of common pleas of Henry county and shall be 1593  
elected and designated as the judge of the court of common 1594  
pleas, division of domestic relations. The judge shall have all 1595  
of the powers relating to juvenile courts, and all cases under 1596  
Chapter 2151. or 2152. of the Revised Code, all parentage 1597  
proceedings arising under Chapter 3111. of the Revised Code over 1598  
which the juvenile court has jurisdiction, all divorce, 1599  
dissolution of marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, 1600  
all proceedings involving child support, the allocation of 1601  
parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children 1602  
and the designation for the children of a place of residence and 1603  
legal custodian, parenting time, and visitation, and all post- 1604  
decree proceedings and matters arising from those cases and 1605  
proceedings shall be assigned to that judge, except in cases 1606  
that for some special reason are assigned to the other judge of 1607  
the court of common pleas. 1608

(CC) (1) In Logan county, the judge of the court of common 1609  
pleas whose term begins January 2, 2005, and the successors to 1610  
that judge, shall have the same qualifications, exercise the 1611  
same powers and jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation 1612  
as the other judges of the court of common pleas of Logan county 1613  
and shall be elected and designated as judge of the court of 1614  
common pleas, domestic relations-juvenile-probate division. 1615

Except as otherwise specified in this division, that judge, and 1616  
the successors to that judge, shall have all the powers relating 1617  
to juvenile courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. 1618  
of the Revised Code, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of 1619  
the Revised Code, all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1620  
separation, and annulment cases, all proceedings involving child 1621  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 1622  
for the care of children and designation for the children of a 1623  
place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 1624  
visitation, and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising 1625  
from those cases and proceedings shall be assigned to that judge 1626  
and the successors to that judge. Notwithstanding any other 1627  
provision of any section of the Revised Code, on and after 1628  
January 2, 2005, the judge of the court of common pleas of Logan 1629  
county whose term begins on January 2, 2005, and the successors 1630  
to that judge, shall have all the powers relating to the probate 1631  
division of the court of common pleas of Logan county in 1632  
addition to the powers previously specified in this division and 1633  
shall exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the judge of the 1634  
probate division of that court over all matters that are within 1635  
the jurisdiction of the probate division of that court under 1636  
Chapter 2101., and other provisions, of the Revised Code in 1637  
addition to the jurisdiction of the domestic relations-juvenile- 1638  
probate division of that court otherwise specified in division 1639  
(CC) (1) of this section. 1640

(2) The judge of the domestic relations-juvenile-probate 1641  
division of the court of common pleas of Logan county or the 1642  
probate judge of the court of common pleas of Logan county who 1643  
is elected as the administrative judge of the probate division 1644  
of the court of common pleas of Logan county pursuant to Rule 4 1645  
of the Rules of Superintendence shall be the clerk of the 1646

probate division and juvenile division of the court of common 1647  
pleas of Logan county. The clerk of the court of common pleas 1648  
who is elected pursuant to section 2303.01 of the Revised Code 1649  
shall keep all of the journals, records, books, papers, and 1650  
files pertaining to the domestic relations cases. 1651

(3) On and after January 2, 2005, all references in law to 1652  
"the probate court," "the probate judge," "the juvenile court," 1653  
or "the judge of the juvenile court" shall be construed, with 1654  
respect to Logan county, as being references to both "the 1655  
probate division" and the "domestic relations-juvenile-probate 1656  
division" and as being references to both "the judge of the 1657  
probate division" and the "judge of the domestic relations- 1658  
juvenile-probate division." On and after January 2, 2005, all 1659  
references in law to "the clerk of the probate court" shall be 1660  
construed, with respect to Logan county, as being references to 1661  
the judge who is serving pursuant to division (CC) (2) of this 1662  
section as the clerk of the probate division of the court of 1663  
common pleas of Logan county. 1664

(DD) (1) In Champaign county, the judge of the court of 1665  
common pleas whose term begins February 9, 2003, and the judge 1666  
of the court of common pleas whose term begins February 10, 1667  
2009, and the successors to those judges, shall have the same 1668  
qualifications, exercise the same powers and jurisdiction, and 1669  
receive the same compensation as the other judges of the court 1670  
of common pleas of Champaign county and shall be elected and 1671  
designated as judges of the court of common pleas, domestic 1672  
relations-juvenile-probate division. Except as otherwise 1673  
specified in this division, those judges, and the successors to 1674  
those judges, shall have all the powers relating to juvenile 1675  
courts, and all cases under Chapters 2151. and 2152. of the 1676  
Revised Code, all cases arising under Chapter 3111. of the 1677



Revised Code, all divorce, dissolution of marriage, legal 1678  
separation, and annulment cases, all proceedings involving child 1679  
support, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities 1680  
for the care of children and the designation for the children of 1681  
a place of residence and legal custodian, parenting time, and 1682  
visitation, and all post-decree proceedings and matters arising 1683  
from those cases and proceedings shall be assigned to those 1684  
judges and the successors to those judges. Notwithstanding any 1685  
other provision of any section of the Revised Code, on and after 1686  
February 9, 2009, the judges designated by this division as 1687  
judges of the court of common pleas of Champaign county, 1688  
domestic relations-juvenile-probate division, and the successors 1689  
to those judges, shall have all the powers relating to probate 1690  
courts in addition to the powers previously specified in this 1691  
division and shall exercise jurisdiction over all matters that 1692  
are within the jurisdiction of probate courts under Chapter 1693  
2101., and other provisions, of the Revised Code in addition to 1694  
the jurisdiction of the domestic relations-juvenile-probate 1695  
division otherwise specified in division (DD) (1) of this 1696  
section. 1697

(2) On and after February 9, 2009, all references in law 1698  
to "the probate court," "the probate judge," "the juvenile 1699  
court," or "the judge of the juvenile court" shall be construed 1700  
with respect to Champaign county as being references to the 1701  
"domestic relations-juvenile-probate division" and as being 1702  
references to the "judge of the domestic relations-juvenile- 1703  
probate division." On and after February 9, 2009, all references 1704  
in law to "the clerk of the probate court" shall be construed 1705  
with respect to Champaign county as being references to the 1706  
judge who is serving pursuant to Rule 4 of the Rules of 1707  
Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio as the administrative 1708

judge of the court of common pleas, domestic relations-juvenile- 1709  
probate division. 1710

(EE) In Delaware county, the judge of the court of common 1711  
pleas whose term begins on January 1, 2017, and successors, 1712  
shall have the same qualifications, exercise the same powers and 1713  
jurisdiction, and receive the same compensation as the other 1714  
judges of the court of common pleas of Delaware county and shall 1715  
be elected and designated as the judge of the court of common 1716  
pleas, division of domestic relations. Divorce, dissolution of 1717  
marriage, legal separation, and annulment cases, including any 1718  
post-decree proceedings, and cases involving questions of 1719  
paternity, custody, visitation, child support, and the 1720  
allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care 1721  
of children, regardless of whether those matters arise in post- 1722  
decree proceedings or involve children born between unmarried 1723  
persons, shall be assigned to that judge, except cases that for 1724  
some special reason are assigned to another judge of the court 1725  
of common pleas. 1726

(FF) If a judge of the court of common pleas, division of 1727  
domestic relations, or juvenile judge, of any of the counties 1728  
mentioned in this section is sick, absent, or unable to perform 1729  
that judge's judicial duties or the volume of cases pending in 1730  
the judge's division necessitates it, the duties of that judge 1731  
shall be performed by another judge of the court of common pleas 1732  
of that county, assigned for that purpose by the presiding judge 1733  
of the court of common pleas of that county to act in place of 1734  
or in conjunction with that judge, as the case may require. 1735

**Section 2.** That existing sections 2301.02 and 2301.03 of 1736  
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 1737

**Section 3.** This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 1738

measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 1739  
peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to 1740  
allow judicial candidates to meet the filing deadlines to appear 1741  
on the ballot in 2018. Therefore, this act shall go into 1742  
immediate effect. 1743

**Section 4.** Section 2301.03 of the Revised Code is 1744  
presented in this act as a composite of the section as amended 1745  
by both Am. H.B. 11 and Am. Sub. H.B. 64 of the 131st General 1746  
Assembly. The General Assembly, applying the principle stated in 1747  
division (B) of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments 1748  
are to be harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous 1749  
operation, finds that the composite is the resulting version of 1750  
the section in effect prior to the effective date of the section 1751  
as presented in this act. 1752