AN ACT to create 753.0605 of the statutes; relating to: adding 12 circuit court branches to be allocated by the director of state courts.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 753.0605 of the statutes is created to read:
753.0605 Additional circuit court branches. Notwithstanding s. 753.06, the director of state courts may add additional circuit court branches as follows:
(1) By November 14, 2020, the director of state courts may add 4 additional circuit court branches, to begin operation on August 1, 2021. The director of state courts may allocate each branch to any county that the director of state courts determines is in need of an additional circuit court branch if the county has passed a resolution requesting an additional circuit court branch and the county has established, or will have established by May 31, 2021, the appropriate infrastructure to support an additional circuit court branch. The director of state courts may require any county, as a condition for receiving a circuit court branch allocation under this subsection, to have established or to apply for a grant under s. 165.95 or 165.955 to establish a drug court.

(2) After November 14, 2020, and before November 14, 2021, the director of state courts may add 4 additional circuit court branches, to begin operation on August 1, 2022. The director of state courts may allocate each branch to any county that the director of state courts determines is in need of an additional circuit court branch if the county has passed a resolution requesting an additional circuit court branch and the county has established, or will have established by May 31, 2022, the appropriate infrastructure to support an additional circuit court branch. The director of state courts may require any county, as a condition for receiving a circuit court branch allocation under this subsection, to have established or to apply for a grant under s. 165.95 or 165.955 to establish a drug court.

(3) After November 14, 2021, and before November 14, 2022, the director of state courts may add 4 additional circuit court branches, to begin operation on August 1, 2023. The director of state courts may allocate each branch to any county that the director of state courts determines is in need of an additional circuit court branch if the county has passed a resolution requesting an additional circuit court branch and the county has established, or will have established by May 31, 2023, the appropriate infrastructure to support an additional circuit court branch. The director of state courts may require any county, as a condition for receiving a circuit court branch allocation under this subsection, to have established or to apply for a grant under s. 165.95 or 165.955 to establish a drug court.

SECTION 2. Nonstatutory provisions.
(1) Election for circuit court judgeships. The initial election for circuit judge positions created under s. 753.0605 (1) shall be at the spring election of 2021 for a
term beginning on August 1, 2021, and ending on July 31, 2027. The initial election for circuit judge positions created under s. 753.0605 (2) shall be at the spring election of 2022 for a term beginning on August 1, 2022, and ending on July 31, 2028. The initial election for circuit judge positions created under s. 753.0605 (3) shall be at the spring election of 2023 for a term beginning on August 1, 2023, and ending on July 31, 2029.

(3) 2021–23 BIENNAL BUDGET REQUEST. The 2021–23 biennial budget request to the department of administration from the director of state courts for the court system shall include all of the following:

(a) Funding for 8 circuit court judge positions for the circuit court branches created under s. 753.0605 (1) and (2).

(b) Funding for 8 circuit court reporter positions for the circuit court branches created under s. 753.0605 (1) and (2).

(4) 2023–25 BIENNAL BUDGET REQUEST. The 2023–25 biennial budget request to the department of administration from the director of state courts for the court system shall include all of the following:

(a) Funding for 4 circuit court judge positions for the circuit court branches created under s. 753.0605 (3).

(b) Funding for 4 circuit court reporter positions for the circuit court branches created under s. 753.0605 (3).

(c) Any proposed statutory changes necessary to conform the statutes to account for circuit court branches added under s. 753.0605.