

No. 65, S.]

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CHAPTER 261

AN ACT to amend 252.031, as created by chapter 315, laws of 1959, 252.08 and 253.19, as created by chapter 315, laws of 1959; to repeal and recreate 251.182, as created by chapter 315, laws of 1959; and to create 20.780 (2) and 256.54 of the statutes, relating to the creation of the office of administrator of courts and making an appropriation.

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

SECTION 1. 20.780 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

20.780 (2) ADMINISTRATOR OF COURTS. There is appropriated from the general fund to the supreme court on July 1, 1961, and annually thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to carry out s. 256.54.

SECTION 2. 251.182 of the statutes, as created by chapter 315, laws of 1959, is repealed and recreated to read:

251.182 ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES. The chief justice of the supreme court or such other justice as the supreme court may designate shall keep informed of the status of the administration of judicial business in the courts of the state and may designate and assign circuit and county judges to serve temporarily in either the circuit or county court:

- (1) To serve as judge in a court in which a calendar is congested;
- (2) To act for a judge who is disqualified or unable to act; or
- (3) To hold court where a vacancy in the office of judge has occurred or where the judge is on vacation.

SECTION 3. 252.031 of the statutes, as created by chapter 315, laws of 1959, is amended to read:

252.031 A circuit judge may act as a circuit judge in another circuit or as a county judge on the written request of the judge of said court \* \* \*; and, when \* \* \* *designated and assigned* to so act by the chief justice of the supreme court or other designated justice, shall do so. While acting temporarily in another circuit or as a county judge, a circuit judge has the power to hold court, try cases and exercise all the authority of the presiding judge.

SECTION 4. 252.08 of the statutes is amended to read:

252.08 \* \* \* The several circuit judges of the state and the judge of any court having unlimited jurisdiction concurrent with the circuit court either in civil or criminal matters shall constitute a board known as the "Board of Circuit Judges." They shall meet at least once in each year at such time and place as they shall determine. They shall make such rules and regulations as they shall deem advisable, not inconsistent with the

statutes or the rules of practice adopted by the justices of the supreme court, to promote the due and prompt administration of the judicial business of their respective courts. Said board shall elect a chairman whose duty it shall be to expedite \* \* \* the work of the said judges. \* \* \* Every circuit judge shall report monthly, and every clerk and reporter of a circuit court shall report when requested, to the chairman such information as the latter shall request respecting the condition of judicial business in the circuit of such circuit judge. The chairman shall perform such other duties as the board shall prescribe.

SECTION 5. 253.19 of the statutes, as created by chapter 315, laws of 1959, is amended to read:

253.19 A county judge may act as county judge in another county or as a circuit judge on the written request of the judge of said court \* \* \* ; and, when \* \* \* *designated and assigned* to so act by the chief justice of the supreme court or other designated justice, shall do so. While acting temporarily as a county judge in another county or as a circuit judge, a county judge has the power to hold court, try cases and exercise all the authority of the presiding judge.

SECTION 6. 256.54 of the statutes is created to read:

256.54 COURT ADMINISTRATOR. (1) DEFINITION. In this section, unless the context requires otherwise, "court" means any tribunal recognized as part of the judicial branch of the government, but excluding justices of the peace and municipal justices of the peace.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR OF COURTS. The office of administrator of courts is created with an administrative director, who shall be the head thereof and who shall assist the chief justice of the supreme court or other designated justice in the performance of his duties under s. 251.182, collect such statistics as the supreme court requires, and perform such other duties as the supreme court directs.

(3) APPOINTMENT. The administrative director shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the supreme court. He shall devote full time to his official duties to the exclusion of engagement in any other business or profession for profit. His salary, not to exceed the maximum amount paid by the state to any circuit judge, shall be fixed by the supreme court, and he shall receive his actual and necessary traveling expenses.

(4) ASSISTANTS. The supreme court shall appoint and fix the compensation of an assistant to the administrative director where such assistant is deemed necessary to enable him to perform his duties.

(5) COMPLIANCE WITH REQUESTS. All judges, clerks of court, registers in probate, and other officers or employes of the courts shall comply with all requests made by the administrative director for information and statistical data relative to the work of the courts and of such offices.

(6) QUARTERS. The office of the administrator of courts shall be in the state capitol as convenient to the supreme court as may be.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect January 1, 1962.

Approved July 17, 1961.