- 1 SB216
- 2 197669-6
- 3 By Senators Orr and Ward (Constitutional Amendment)
- 4 RFD: Judiciary
- 5 First Read: 02-APR-19

3 4 ENROLLED, An Act, 5 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of 6 Alabama of 1901, to amend Section 6.05 of Amendment 328; 7 Section 6.09 of Amendment 328, as further amended by Amendment 426; Sections 6.10, 6.12, 6.14, and 6.16 of Amendment 328; 8 Sections 6.17 and 6.18 of Amendment 328, as amended by 9 10 Amendment 581; Sections 6.19 and 6.20 of Amendment 328, and 11 Sections 173 and 174 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Sections 143, 148, 149, 151, 153, 155, 156, 12 13 157, 159, 160, 162, 173, and 174 of the Official Recompilation 14 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, to delete 15 the requirement that a district court hold court in each 16 incorporated municipality with a population of 1,000 or more 17 where there is no municipal court; to provide that the procedure for the filling of vacancies in the office of a 18 19 judge may be changed by statewide or local constitutional amendment; to increase the age restriction on elected or 20 21 appointed judicial officers to 75 years; to delete certain 22 language relating to a constable holding more than one state 23 office; to delete a provision providing for the temporary 24 maintenance of the prior judicial system; to repeal the office 25 of circuit solicitor; to make certain nonsubstantive stylistic

SB216

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1 changes; to increase the membership of the Judicial Inquiry 2 Commission; to further provide for the appointment of the commission's members; to further provide for the appointment 3 of the membership of the Court of the Judiciary; to provide 4 5 further for the process of disqualifying an active judge; and 6 to remove provisions authorizing the impeachment of the justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the appellate 7 8 courts; to remove provisions authorizing the Supreme Court to 9 remove judges of the district and circuit courts, judges of 10 the probate courts, and judges of certain other courts; to 11 delete the authority of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court 12 to appoint an Administrative Director of Courts; to provide 13 the Supreme Court of Alabama with authority to appoint an 14 Administrative Director of Courts; and to require the Legislature to establish procedures for the appointment of the 15 16 Administrative Director of Courts; and to repeal Amendment 17 580, Section 6.21 of Amendment 328, and Amendment 226 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Sections 18 19 158, 161, and 162 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended. 20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

22 Section 1. The following amendment to the 23 Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, is proposed and 24 shall become valid as a part thereof when approved by a 25 majority of the qualified electors voting thereon and in

1	accordance with Sections 284, 285, and 287 of the Constitution
2	of Alabama of 1901, as amended:
3	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
4	(a) The following amendments to the Constitution of
5	Alabama of 1901 are repealed:
6	(1) Amendment 580 of the Constitution of Alabama of
7	1901, now appearing as Section 158 of the Official
8	Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as
9	amended.
10	(2) Section 6.21 of Amendment 328 of the
11	Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 161
12	of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama
13	of 1901, as amended.
14	(3) Amendment 226 of the Constitution of Alabama of
15	1901, now appearing as Section 162 of the Official
16	Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as
17	amended.
18	(b) Section 6.05 of Amendment 328; Section 6.09 of
19	Amendment 328, as further amended by Amendment 426; Sections
20	6.10, 6.12, 6.14, and 6.16 of Amendment 328; Sections 6.17 and
21	6.18 of Amendment 328, as amended by Amendment 581; Sections
22	6.19 and 6.20 of Amendment 328, and Sections 173 and 174 of
23	the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Sections
24	143, 148, 149, 151, 153, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 162, 173,

and 174 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of
 Alabama of 1901, as amended, are amended to read as follows:

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"Amendment 328.

"Section 6.05.

5 "<u>(a)</u> The district court shall be a court of limited 6 jurisdiction and shall exercise uniform original jurisdiction 7 in such cases, and within such the geographical boundaries, as 8 shall be prescribed by law; provided, that the district court 9 shall hold court in each county seat and at such other places 10 as prescribed by law.

"(b) The district court shall have jurisdiction of all cases arising under ordinances of municipalities in which there is no municipal court and shall hold court in each incorporated municipality of a population of 1000 or more where there is no municipal court at places prescribed by law.
"Amendment 328, as amended by Amendment 426.

"Section 6.09.

"(a) A state judicial compensation commission is
hereby created which shall recommend the salary and expense
allowances to be paid from the state treasury <u>State Treasury</u>
for all the judges of this state, except for judges of the
probate court. The commission shall consist of five members;
one <u>One</u> shall be appointed by the governor <u>Governor</u>, one by
the president <u>President</u> of the <u>senate</u> <u>Senate</u>, one by the

speaker Speaker of the house House, and two by the governing
 body of the Alabama state bar State Bar.

"(b) Members of the judicial compensation commission
shall serve for terms of four years. Any vacancy on the
commission shall be filled in the same manner in which such
<u>the</u> position was originally filled. The legislature
<u>Legislature</u> shall appropriate sufficient funds for the
expenses of the commission.

9 "(c) No member of the commission shall hold any 10 other public office, or office in any political party, and no 11 member of the commission shall be eligible for appointment to 12 a state judicial office so long as he <u>or she</u> is a member of 13 the commission and for two years thereafter.

14 "(d) The commission may submit a report to the 15 legislature Legislature at any time within the first five 16 calendar days of any session. The recommendations of the 17 commission shall become law upon confirmation by a joint 18 resolution or such recommendations may be altered by an act of the legislature Legislature at the session to which the report 19 is submitted. The compensation of a judge shall not be 20 diminished during his or her official term. 21

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"Amendment 328.

"Section 6.10.

24 "(a) The chief justice <u>Chief Justice</u> of the supreme
 25 court <u>Supreme Court</u> shall be the administrative head of the

1 judicial system. He shall appoint an administrative director 2 of courts and other needed personnel to assist him with his administrative tasks. The Supreme Court shall appoint an 3 Administrative Director of Courts according to procedures 4 5 provided by general law. The Administrative Director of Courts 6 shall assist the Chief Justice with his or her administrative 7 tasks. The chief justice Chief Justice may assign appellate 8 justices and judges to any appellate court for temporary 9 service and may assign trial judges, supernumerary justices 10 and judges, and retired trial judges and retired appellate 11 judges for temporary service in any court.

12 "(b) The Legislature shall provide adequate Adequate 13 and reasonable financing for the entire unified judicial 14 system shall be provided. Adequate and reasonable 15 appropriations shall be made by the legislature Legislature 16 for the entire unified judicial system, exclusive of probate 17 courts and municipal courts. The legislature Legislature shall receive recommendations for appropriations for the trial 18 19 courts from the administrative director of courts 20 Administrative Director of Courts and for the appellate courts 21 from each such court. The Legislature shall establish 22 procedures for the appointment of the Administrative Director 23 of Courts. "Amendment 328. 24 25 "Section 6.12.

1 "(a) The supreme court Supreme Court shall establish 2 criteria for determining the number and boundaries of judicial circuits and districts \overline{r} and the number of judges needed in 3 each circuit and district. If the supreme court Supreme Court 4 finds that a need exists for increasing or decreasing the 5 6 number of circuit or district judges, or for changing the 7 boundaries of judicial circuits or districts, it shall, at the 8 beginning of any session of the legislature Legislature, the 9 court shall certify its findings and recommendations to the 10 legislature Legislature.

11 "(b) If a bill is introduced at any session of the 12 legislature Legislature to increase or decrease the number of 13 circuit or district judges, or to change the boundaries of any 14 judicial circuit or district, the supreme court Supreme Court must, within three weeks, shall report to the legislature 15 16 Legislature its recommendations on the proposed change. No 17 change shall be made in the number of circuit or district judges, or the boundaries of any judicial circuit or district, 18 19 unless authorized by an act adopted after the recommendation 20 of the supreme court Supreme Court on such proposal has been 21 filed with the legislature Legislature.

"(c) An act decreasing the number of circuit or
district judges shall not affect the right of any judge to
hold his <u>or her</u> office for his <u>or her</u> full term.

"Amendment 328.

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"Section 6.14.

2 "The office of a judge shall be vacant if he or she 3 dies, resigns, retires, or is removed. Vacancies in any judicial office shall be filled by appointment by the qovernor 4 5 ; however, vacancies occurring in any judicial office in 6 Jefferson county shall be filled as now provided by amendments 83 and 110 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901 [Jefferson 7 8 County §§ 8 and 9] and vacancies occurring in Shelby, Madison, 9 Wilcox, Monroe, Conecuh, Clarke, Washington, Henry, Etowah, 10 Walker, Tallapoosa, Pickens, Greene, Tuscaloosa, St. Clair 11 county shall be filled as provided in the Constitution of 1901 12 with amendments now or hereafter adopted, or as may be 13 otherwise established by a properly advertised and enacted 14 local law Governor, except as specified by a separate local 15 constitutional amendment now existing or hereafter adopted 16 that affects only one county or a political subdivision within 17 one or more counties. A judge, other than a probate judge, appointed to fill a vacancy, shall serve an initial term 18 19 lasting until the first Monday after the second Tuesday in 20 January following the next general election held after he or 21 she has completed one year in office. At such election, such 22 judicial office shall be filled for a full term of office 23 beginning at the end of the appointed term. 24 "Amendment 328.

25 "Section 6.16.

1 The legislature Legislature shall provide by law for 2 the retirement of judges, including supernumerary judges, with such conditions, retirement benefits, and pensions for them 3 the judges and their dependents as it the Legislature may 4 5 prescribe. No person shall be elected or appointed to a 6 judicial office after reaching the age of seventy 70 years, provided that a judge over the age of seventy 70 years may be 7 8 appointed to the office of supernumerary judge if he or she is not eligible to receive state judicial retirement benefits. 9

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"Amendment 328, as amended by Amendment 581. "Section 6.17.

"(a) A Judicial Inquiry Commission is created 12 13 consisting of nine 11 members. The Supreme Court shall appoint 14 one appellate judge who shall not be a Justice on the Supreme 15 Court; the Circuit Judges' Association shall appoint two 16 judges of the circuit court; the Governor shall appoint three 17 persons who are not lawyers, who shall be subject to Senate confirmation before serving; the Lieutenant Governor shall 18 19 appoint one district judge who shall be subject to Senate 20 confirmation the District Judges' Association shall appoint 21 one judge of the district court; the Probate Judges' 22 Association shall appoint one judge of the probate court; the 23 Municipal Judges' Association organized under the Alabama 24 League of Municipalities shall appoint one judge of the 25 municipal court; and the governing body of the Alabama State

1 Bar shall appoint two members of the state bar to serve as members of the commission. The nominating authorities shall 2 make every effort to coordinate their appointments to assure 3 commission membership is inclusive and reflects the racial, 4 5 gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of 6 the state without regard to political affiliation. Provided, however, that on January 1, 2005, the appointment authority 7 8 granted to the Lieutenant Governor shall revert to the Governor and the Governor shall thereafter be entitled to 9 10 appoint three persons who are not lawyers and one district 11 judge, all subject to Senate confirmation. The commission shall select its own chair. The terms of the members of the 12 13 commission shall be four years and each member may serve no 14 more than two consecutive terms. A vacancy on the commission 15 shall be filled for a full term in the manner the original 16 appointment was made.

17 "(b) The commission shall be convened permanently 18 with authority to conduct investigations and receive or 19 initiate complaints concerning any judge of a court of the judicial system of this state. The commission shall file a 20 21 complaint with the Court of the Judiciary in the event that a 22 majority of the members of the commission decide that a 23 reasonable basis exists, (1) to charge a judge with violation 24 of any Canon of Judicial Ethics, misconduct in office, or 25 failure to perform his or her duties, or (2) to charge that

the judge is physically or mentally unable to perform his or her duties. All proceedings of the commission shall be confidential except the filing of a complaint with the Court of the Judiciary. The commission shall prosecute the complaints.

6 "(c) The Supreme Court shall adopt rules governing 7 the procedures of the commission.

8 "(d) The commission shall have subpoena power and 9 authority to appoint and direct its staff. Members of the 10 commission who are not judges shall receive per diem 11 compensation and necessary expenses; members who are judges 12 shall receive necessary expenses only. The Legislature shall 13 appropriate funds for the operation of the commission.

14 15 "Amendment 328, as amended by Amendment 581. "Section 6.18.

16 "(a) The Court of the Judiciary is created 17 consisting of one judge of an appellate court, other than the Supreme Court, who shall be selected by the Supreme Court and 18 shall serve as Chief Judge of the Court of the Judiciary; two 19 judges of the circuit court, who shall be selected by the 20 Circuit Judges' Association; and one district judge of the 21 22 district court, who shall be selected by the District Judges' 23 Association. Other members of the Court of the Judiciary shall consist of two members of the state bar, who shall be selected 24 25 by the governing body of the Alabama State Bar; two and three

1 persons who are not lawyers, who shall be appointed by the 2 Governor; and one person appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. The nominating authorities shall make every effort to 3 coordinate their appointments to assure court membership is 4 5 inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, 6 rural, and economic diversity of the state without regard to 7 political affiliation. Members appointed by the Governor and 8 Lieutenant Governor shall be subject to Senate confirmation 9 before serving. Provided, however, that on January 1, 2005, 10 the appointment authority granted to the Lieutenant Governor 11 shall revert to the Governor and the Governor shall thereafter 12 be entitled to appoint three persons who are not lawyers, 13 subject to Senate confirmation. The court shall be convened to 14 hear complaints filed by the Judicial Inquiry Commission. The court shall have authority, after notice and public hearing, 15 16 to do either of the following:

(1) to remove <u>Remove</u> from office, suspend, with or
without pay, or censure a judge, or apply such <u>any</u> other
sanction as may <u>be</u> prescribed by law, for <u>a</u> violation of a
Canon of Judicial Ethics, misconduct in office, <u>or</u> failure to
perform his or her duties<u>r.</u>

(2) to suspend <u>Suspend</u>, with or without pay, or to
 retire a judge who is physically or mentally unable to perform
 his or her duties.

1	"(b) A judge aggrieved by a decision of the Court of
2	the Judiciary may appeal to the Supreme Court. The Supreme
3	Court shall review the record of the proceedings on the law
4	and the facts.
5	"(c) The Supreme Court shall adopt rules governing
6	the procedures of the Court of the Judiciary.
7	"(d) The Court of the Judiciary shall have power to
8	<u>may</u> issue subpoenas. The Legislature shall provide by law for
9	the expenses of the court.
10	"Amendment 328.
11	"Section 6.19.
12	" <u>(a)</u> A judge shall be disqualified from acting as a
13	judge, without loss of salary, while there is pending <u>in</u>
14	either of the following circumstances:
15	"(1) an <u>An</u> indictment or an information charging him
16	or her in the United States with a crime punishable as a
17	felony under a state or federal law , or <u>is pending.</u>
18	"(2) a <u>A</u> complaint against him filed by the judicial
19	inquiry commission with the court of the judiciary. or her
20	recommending disqualification adopted by a two-thirds vote of
21	the Judicial Inquiry Commission is pending with the Court of
22	the Judiciary and both of the following conditions are met:
23	"a. The complaint alleges the judge is physically or
24	mentally unable to perform his or her judicial duties or poses

1	a substantial threat of serious harm to the public or the
2	administration of justice.
3	"b. The recommendation of disqualification is
4	approved by the Chief Judge of the Court of the Judiciary.
5	"(b) A judge who is suspended pursuant to
6	subdivision (2) of subsection (a) shall have the opportunity
7	to request a review of the suspension pursuant to rules of
8	procedure adopted by the Supreme Court to govern the Court of
9	the Judiciary.
10	"Amendment 328.
11	"Section 6.20.
12	"(a) A district attorney for each judicial circuit
13	shall be elected by the qualified electors of those counties
14	in such circuit. Such The district attorney shall be licensed
15	to practice law in this state and shall , at the time of his <u>or</u>
16	her election and during his or her continuance in office,
17	<u>shall</u> reside in his <u>or her</u> circuit. His <u>The</u> term of office
18	shall be for six years and he <u>or she</u> shall receive such
19	compensation as provided by law. Vacancies in the office of
20	district attorney and in his <u>or her</u> staff shall be filled as
21	provided by law.
22	"(b) Clerks of the circuit courts shall be elected
23	by the qualified electors in each county for a term of six
24	years. If the office of register in chancery continues to be

25 provided by law, then the clerk of the circuit court may also

fill such office in a manner prescribed by law. Vacancies in the office of clerk of the circuit court shall be filled by the judge or judges of the circuit court who have jurisdiction over the county in which the office of clerk of the circuit court is located.

6 "(c) Persons elected to the position of constable to 7 assist the courts of the state as provided by law shall be 8 subject to the same restrictions, rights and limitations as 9 are specified in section 280 of the Constitution of 1901, and 10 no law shall prohibit the receipt of fees for the performance 11 of official duties of said position while holding any other 12 elected or appointed office.

13 "(d) (c) The revenue from fines, forfeitures, and 14 court costs produced in district courts from the exercise of 15 jurisdiction under municipal ordinances shall be apportioned 16 between the municipality and the state as shall be provided by 17 law.

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"Section 173.

"(a) The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney
General, State Auditor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer,
members of the State Board of Education, <u>and</u> Commissioner of
Agriculture and Industries, and justices of the supreme court
may be removed from office for willful neglect of duty,
corruption in office, incompetency, or intemperance in the use
of intoxicating liquors or narcotics to such an extent, in

view of the dignity of the office and importance of its duties, as unfits the officer for the discharge of such duties for any offense involving moral turpitude while in office, or committed under color thereof, or connected therewith.

5 "(b) The House of Representatives shall present 6 articles or charges of impeachment against those persons 7 identified in subsection (a), specifying the cause to the 8 Senate.

9 "(c) The Senate, sitting as a court of impeachment,
10 shall take testimony under oath on articles or charges
11 preferred by the House of Representatives.

12 "(d) The Lieutenant Governor shall preside over the 13 Senate when sitting as a court of impeachment, provided, 14 however, that if the Governor or Lieutenant Governor is 15 impeached, the Chief Justice, or if the Chief Justice be 16 absent or disqualified, then one of the associate justices of 17 the supreme court, to be selected by the court, shall preside 18 over the Senate when sitting as a court of impeachment. No 19 person may be convicted by the Senate sitting as a court of impeachment without the concurrence of two-thirds of the 20 21 members present.

"(e) If at any time when the Legislature is not in
session, a majority of all the members elected to the House of
Representatives shall certify in writing to the Secretary of
State their desire to meet to consider the impeachment of the

1 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or other officer administering the office of Governor, it shall be the duty of the Secretary 2 of State immediately to notify the Speaker of the House who, 3 within 10 days after receipt of the notice, shall summon the 4 5 members of the House to assemble at the capitol on a day to be 6 fixed by the Speaker, but not later than 15 days after receipt of the notice by the Speaker from the Secretary of State, to 7 8 consider the impeachment of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or other officer administering the office of Governor. 9

10 "(f) If the House of Representatives prefers 11 articles of impeachment, the Speaker of the House shall 12 forthwith notify the Lieutenant Governor, unless he or she is 13 the officer impeached, in which event the President Pro 14 Tempore of the Senate shall be notified, who shall summon the 15 members of the Senate to assemble at the capitol on a 16 specified day not later than 10 days after receipt of the 17 notice from the Speaker of the House, for the purpose of hearing and trying the articles of impeachment against the 18 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or other officer administering 19 the office of Governor, as may be preferred by the House of 20 21 Representatives.

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"Section 174.

"The judges of the district and circuit courts,
judges of the probate courts, and judges of other courts from
which an appeal may be taken directly to the supreme court,

district <u>District</u> attorneys, and sheriffs, may be removed from office for any of the causes specified in Section 173 or elsewhere in this constitution, by the supreme court, or under such regulations as may be prescribed by rule of the Supreme Court of Alabama or law. The Legislature may provide for the impeachment or removal of other officers than those named in this article."

8 Section 2. An election upon the proposed amendment 9 shall be held in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the 10 Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Sections 284 11 and 285 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of 12 Alabama of 1901, as amended, and the election laws of this 13 state.

14 Section 3. The appropriate election official shall 15 assign a ballot number for the proposed constitutional 16 amendment on the election ballot and shall set forth the 17 following description of the substance or subject matter of 18 the proposed constitutional amendment:

"Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to increase the membership of the Judicial Inquiry Commission and further provide for the appointment of the additional members; further provide for the membership of the Court of the Judiciary and further provide for the appointment of the additional members; further provide for the process of disqualifying an active judge; repeal provisions

providing for the impeachment of Supreme Court Justices and 1 2 appellate judges and the removal for cause of the judges of the district and circuit courts, judges of the probate courts, 3 and judges of certain other courts by the Supreme Court; 4 5 delete the authority of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court 6 to appoint an Administrative Director Courts; provide the Supreme Court of Alabama with authority to appoint an 7 8 Administrative Director of Courts; require the Legislature to 9 establish procedures for the appointment of the Administrative 10 Director of Courts; delete the requirement that a district 11 court hold court in each incorporated municipality with a 12 population of 1,000 or more where there is no municipal court; 13 provide that the procedure for the filling of vacancies in the 14 office of a judge may be changed by local constitutional 15 amendment; delete certain language relating to the position of 16 constable holding more than one state office; delete a 17 provision providing for the temporary maintenance of the prior judicial system; repeal the office of circuit solicitor; and 18 19 make certain nonsubstantive stylistic changes. "Proposed by Act ." 20

21 This description shall be followed by the following 22 language:

23 "Yes () No ()."

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4	President and Presiding Officer of the Senate
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6	Speaker of the House of Representatives
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	SB216 Senate 30-APR-19 I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate. Patrick Harris, Secretary.
16 17 18 19	House of Representatives Passed: 14-MAY-19
20 21	By: Senator Orr