

1 HB672  
2 139163-2  
3 By Representatives Ball, McCutcheon, Johnson (W), Hall,  
4 Patterson, Williams (P) and Sanderford (N & P)  
5 RFD: Madison County Legislation  
6 First Read: 10-APR-12

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9 A BILL  
10 TO BE ENTITLED  
11 AN ACT  
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13 Relating to Madison County; to amend Section 5 of  
14 Act 1040 of the 1973 Regular Session (Acts 1973, p. 1627),  
15 relating to the court administrator in the Twenty-third  
16 Judicial Circuit, to provide for the appointment of the court  
17 administrator by the presiding circuit judge as a confidential  
18 employee of the court system; to provide for the duties and  
19 compensation of the court administrator; to provide for the  
20 selection of administrative, clerical, or support personnel by  
21 the court administrator; to provide for the application of the  
22 Madison County Preservation of Justice Act to the office; and  
23 to clarify the abolishment of the existing position of court  
24 administrator.

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

26 Section 1. Section 5 of Act 1040 of the 1973 Regular  
27 Session (Acts 1973, p. 1627), is amended to read as follows:

1           "Section 5. (a) The Office of Court Administrator of  
2     the Twenty-third Judicial Circuit of Alabama is redefined as  
3     provided in this section. Immediately on passage of the act  
4     amending this section, but not less than five days thereafter,  
5     the presiding circuit judge of the 23rd Judicial Circuit shall  
6     nominate for appointment, subject to the approval of a  
7     majority vote of the circuit and district judges of the  
8     Twenty-third Judicial Circuit, a court administrator, who  
9     shall be a confidential employee of this state, subject to  
10    laws and rules of the Unified Judicial System of Alabama, and  
11    shall be supervised by the presiding circuit judge of the  
12    circuit. The court administrator and each confidential  
13    employee of the office of court administrator shall be  
14    compensated under the provisions of the Unified Judicial  
15    System. The duties and responsibilities of the court  
16    administrator include, but are not limited to, all of the  
17    following:

18           "(1) The court administrator shall work with the  
19    judges of the Twenty-third Judicial Circuit and the circuit  
20    court clerk to compile, obtain, and digest information  
21    concerning the administration of justice in the Twenty-third  
22    Judicial Circuit.

23           "(2) The court administrator shall apply for and  
24    receive any grants or other assistance and coordinate and  
25    conduct studies and projects in connection with the  
26    improvement of the administration of justice in the  
27    Twenty-third Judicial Circuit.

1           "(3) The court administrator shall carry on or  
2 assist in programs designed to aid the continuing legal and  
3 judicial education of judges, clerks, and other court  
4 personnel.

5           "(4) The court administrator shall prepare and  
6 administer certain financial information necessary for  
7 accounting and procurement.

8           "(5) The court administrator shall assist the judges  
9 in the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit in gathering information  
10 needed in the management of any pre-trial release program in  
11 operation in Madison County.

12           "(6) The court administrator shall manage the jury  
13 system.

14           "(7) The court administrator shall prepare and  
15 submit to the court, at least annually, a report of the  
16 activities and the state of business of the court. This  
17 document shall be published by the court and shall include a  
18 description of innovations and modifications introduced to  
19 improve the court.

20           "(b) Immediately upon the appointment of the court  
21 administrator, the court administrator may select three  
22 administrative, clerical, or other support personnel to serve  
23 in the court administrator's office of the Twenty-third  
24 Judicial Circuit. All support personnel in the office of the  
25 court administrator shall serve as confidential employees  
26 pursuant to the laws and rules of the Unified Judicial System.

1           "(c) All personnel of the Office of Court  
2 Administrator of the Twenty-third Judicial Circuit, including  
3 the court administrator, shall be protected pursuant to the  
4 provisions of Act 2004-262 of the 2004 Regular Session and  
5 known as "The Madison County Preservation of Justice Act."

6           "(d) The purposes of this act are to effect  
7 efficiency and economy in the operation of the courts of the  
8 Twenty-third Judicial Circuit of Alabama.

9           "(e) Upon the appointment of a court administrator  
10 pursuant to subsection (a), the position of court  
11 administrator as provided prior to the effective date of the  
12 act amending this section is abolished.

13           Section 2. This act shall become effective  
14 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
15 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.