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AN ACT to amend Chapter 6 of the Private Acts of 1941, as amended by Chapter 37 of the Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 475 of the Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 119 of the Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 25 of the Private Acts of 1953, Chapter 257 of the Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 394 of the Private Acts of 1957, Chapter 159 of the Private Acts of 1967, Chapter 135 of the Private Acts of 1971, Chapter 176 of the Private Acts of 1984, Chapter 14 of the Private Acts of 1985, Chapter 106 of the Private Acts of 1987, and all other acts amendatory thereto relative to the General Sessions Court of Hamilton County.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the Private Acts of 1941, as amended by Chapter 37 of the Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 475 of the Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 119 of the Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 25 of the Private Acts of 1953, Chapter 257 of the Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 394 of the Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 159 of the Private Acts of 1967, Chapter 135 of the Private Acts of 1971, Chapter 176 of the Private Acts of 1984, Chapter 14 of the Private Acts of 1985, Chapter 106 of the Private Acts of 1987, and all other acts amendatory thereto is further amended by designating the present language of Section 1 as subsection (a) and by adding the following new subsections:

(b) There is hereby created Division IV and Division V of the General Sessions Court of Hamilton County. Judges to fill such new divisions shall be initially appointed by majority vote of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners. Such appointees shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified pursuant to the next regular August election in 1996. Such appointees, and such candidates in 1996 and thereafter, shall

possess the same qualifications as required by Section 11 of this act as amended for the judges of the three (3) present divisions.

(c) An election shall be held for the judges of Division IV and V at the regular August election in the 1996 county general election, and such election shall be non-partisan in 1996 and non-partisan thereafter in all general sessions judgeship elections. Candidates for the position of judge shall qualify by the same deadline as conditioned for the regular August election in 1996. Persons elected to the position of general sessions court judge for Division IV and Division V in August, 1996, shall serve until September 1, 1998, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

(d) At the regular August election in 1998 and every eight (8) years thereafter, the qualified voters of Hamilton County shall elect a person to serve as judge of Division IV and Division V for a full eight (8) year term. A vacancy in the office of judge of Division IV or V shall be filled for the unexpired term as provided by general law.

(e) The judges of Divisions IV and V of the general sessions court of Hamilton County shall have the same powers, duties, responsibilities, jurisdiction, authority, and shall be paid the same compensation in the same manner and with the same restrictions as the judges of the three (3) present divisions of general sessions court. Supplies, courtrooms, furnishings and other necessary equipment shall be furnished the judges of such new divisions in the manner provided by subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 2. Chapter 6 of the Private Acts of 1941 as amended is further amended by deleting from the first sentence of Section 15 the word "three" and substituting instead the word "five".

SECTION 3. This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the legislative body of Hamilton County. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the Hamilton County legislative body and certified to the secretary of state.

SECTION 4. For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this act, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, it shall become effective upon being approved as provided in Section 3.

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