

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

**HOUSE BILL 844
RATIFIED BILL**

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE BALANCE IN THE RESIDENCY OF DISTRICT COURT
JUDGES IN DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT ELEVEN.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 7A-133 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(b1) The qualified voters of District Court District 11 shall elect all eight judges established for the District in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in Johnston County may be candidates for five of the judgeships, only persons who reside in Harnett County may be candidates for two of the judgeships, and only persons who reside in Lee County may be candidates for the remaining judgeship."

SECTION 2. The district court judgeships established for residents of Harnett County by Section 1 of this act shall be filled by the district court judges serving District 11 who reside in Harnett County on October 1, 2002. Those judges' successors shall be elected for four-year terms in the 2004 election.

SECTION 3. The district court judgeship established for residents of Lee County by Section 1 of this act shall be filled by the district court judge serving District 11 who resides in Lee County on October 1, 2002. That judge's successor shall be elected for a four-year term in the 2004 election.

SECTION 4. The district court judgeships established for residents of Johnston County by Section 1 of this act shall be filled by the district court judges who reside in Johnston County on October 1, 2002. The terms of office of two of the judges residing in Johnston County expire on the first Monday in December 2002. Those judges' successors shall be elected for four-year terms in the 2002 election. The successors to the remaining judges residing in Johnston County shall be elected for four-year terms in the 2004 election.

SECTION 5. This act becomes effective July 1, 2002, or the date upon which this act is approved under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, whichever is later.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 22nd day of August, 2001.

Beverly E. Perdue
President of the Senate

James B. Black
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Michael F. Easley
Governor

Approved _____ .m. this _____ day of _____, 2001