

By: Williams, Staples, Janek

S.B. No. 449

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the number of justices for the eighth and ninth courts of appeals districts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subsection (h), Section 22.216, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(h) The Court of Appeals for the Eighth Court of Appeals District consists of a chief justice and two [~~three~~] justices.

SECTION 2. Subsection (i), Section 22.216, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(i) The Court of Appeals for the Ninth Court of Appeals District consists of a chief justice and three [~~two~~] justices.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding Subsection (h), Section 22.216, Government Code, as amended by this Act, the Eighth Court of Appeals consists of a chief justice and three justices until a vacancy occurs or the term of a justice expires, whichever occurs first. Subsection (h), Section 22.216, Government Code, as amended by this Act, does not affect the office of a justice of the Eighth Court of Appeals serving on September 1, 2003, and the justice, unless otherwise removed, continues to serve for the term to which the justice was elected.

SECTION 4. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

(b) Section 2 of this Act takes effect January 1, 2005.